

The Kingdom of Heaven

REVELATION 19

All through these studies, the primary exhortation in the Word has been “prepare yourself.” Repeatedly, descriptions have been given of the parts to be played by groups of people in varying stages of preparation at the outset of and during the time of trial developing for all the world. Each *chapter*, from **10** through **19**, covers a different aspect of the 3 ½ year period described by the Lord as the Great Tribulation, for those not fully prepared. *Chapter 19* brings another shift in scene and viewpoint. The scene is in heaven and the view covers events which begin with the blowing of the seventh Trumpet. At the time for the initial blowing of the seventh Trumpet (*Rev. 10:2,7*), the Mighty Angel, Jesus Christ, is seen setting His right foot in judgment on the sea, the kingdom of the beast who rises from the “sea” (*Rev. 13:1*), and His left foot is set in judgment on the land, the kingdom of the beast who rises out of the “land” (*Rev. 13:11*). He calls out for His chosen and prepared ones and they answer as seven Thunders (*Rev. 10:3, 14:2*). As the seventh Trumpet begins to blow, the victory of the Body that fully belongs to Him begins to be evident (*Rev. 12:10*).

:1-3 The throwing down of “Babylon” (the great harlot Jezebel, the world system ruled by Satan) is actually begun at the initiation of the Great Tribulation, and there is much rejoicing in Heaven (*Rev. 12:10-12, 14:1-8*). After a long period of exceeding mercy, the great trial has been held, the arguments presented and weighed; and righteous judgment is given on the conduct of the great harlot who has adulterated the plan in the Word of Christ. The sentence on her religious, political and commercial-financial systems is complete destruction. And the “smoke” of remembrance of that utter destruction will be recalled in memory forever.

:4-5 A worship of praise is enjoined by the leaders of worship in Heaven, and then an invitation issues from the Throne for all who revere God to praise Him.

:6 The response is as mighty as that of the boom of great pounding waves of water and of terrific thunder. This same response was described twice before (*Rev. 10:3, 14:2*) in answer to Jesus Christ’s summons to all who are alert and who have prepared themselves for that call. Earlier, John was given the title of “Son of Thunder.” He is a type of the end-time Church, the one whom Jesus especially loved and into whose tender care the woman (Mary) was committed. Mary, meaning bitterness, is associated with the unprepared church.

THE MARRIAGE

:7 It is at the initial sounding of the seventh Trumpet that the marriage of the Lamb has come at last and the joy and exaltation are unparalleled. Because those

who are to be His wife have been looking forward to this day with a deep sense of responsibility, they have already prepared themselves as a Body for Christ, as overcoming individuals in that Body (*Eph. 5:27*). The members of this group, which is to be His wife, become evident as the Great Tribulation begins. In a prophetic picture, Rebekah, a type of the Bride of Christ, remained veiled until she was taken by Isaac, a type of Christ, into his mother's tent. But after she was joined to him, she was unveiled (*Gen. 24:63-67*).

The day of the Bride's unveiling will come as she puts on her "wedding garments," the glorified bodies just like Christ's own glorified body (*Phil. 3:21*). After she has been received by her Bridegroom in celestial joy, she will then be unveiled for earth men to see, because she will have a ministry to perform on earth during a portion of the Great Tribulation. As the veil is lifted, the purposes of the Lord unfold, and the Bride of Christ is revealed as the body of those who have first fulfilled the minimum requirements for being manifested as sons of God, even as Jesus was manifested as *the* Son of God. They are those who so prepared themselves that God would pour out His Holy Spirit upon them. They could then become to Him a praise on earth, seeking Him diligently and walking in His ways. They are the first of those who come to the place where their all-consuming desire is for Him and for His purpose for them. To be manifested as sons, they will have overcome the enemy, in the flesh. Because no son is ready to be manifested until he is fit to put on immortality (deathless life), the unveiling and their putting on immortality are the same. However, during the period of preparation, many people shall stumble and be offended as the manner of unveiling differs from their preconceived expectations. Truly those shall come forth, who like Jesus, will no longer be subject to death, having entered immortality in human flesh, and invested with power.

All signs now point to the soon enunciation of the greatest cry since Jesus triumphantly shouted on the Cross, "It is finished" (*Jn. 19:30, Jer. 25:30-33*). The "hour of midnight" is close at hand, and at that hour a cry will be heard, "Behold the Bridegroom comes. Go out to meet Him." The cry will be trumpeted by the two witnesses of *Revelation II* when they suddenly appear in Jerusalem to announce the imminent return of Jesus Christ. However there is also a sense in which the cry has been previously articulated through the Lord's chosen messengers.

The Bible significantly shows Christ returning to His saints first as a Bridegroom and, only later, to this planet as King of kings and Lord of lords (*Rev. 19:16*). It is rather obvious that a Bridegroom would come for His Bride, who then goes into the marriage celebration with Him (*Matt. 25:10*). Scripture reserves the unique and exalted position of Bridegroom to Christ alone, and declares the great privilege waiting those *overcoming* sons and daughters of God who shall make up the Bride company. Even now, all creation waits in anticipation of the day of their unveiling or manifesting (*Rom. 8:19*).

Probably most Christians have believed in a so-called "rapture" of all who are "born again" when Christ comes for His Church. Though very comforting to the thoughtless and careless, scarcely a worse delusion could be entertained. The Bible says that Christ's Kingdom is to be a *ruling* Kingdom (*Rev. 5:10, 20:6*). What chaos there would be, even in the government of man, if immature and unproven babes and children were entrusted with positions of responsibility to administer the affairs of state! God is not less wise than man (*Isa. 3:10-15*). The parables about the talents and the pounds clearly

in joint-heirship with Christ. The placement is linked with the buying back of their physical bodies from death (**Rom. 8:23**) so as to enter a full sonship in glorified bodies just like Christ's (**Rom. 8:29**).

We can be joint-heirs with Him only if we suffer (meaning to gain experience) with Him and only if we be glorified with Him (**Rom. 8:17**). If we go through maturing experience for His sake, we shall also reign with Him (**II Tim. 2:12**). Right now we who have made a start have received the spirit of placement (**Rom. 8:15, Gal. 4:6**). We have or can have the firstfruits of the Spirit which is a seal and a foretaste of our inheritance with Christ, and which is guaranteed to bring us into redemption which Christ purchased for our possession – an undying body (**Eph. 1:13-14, II Cor. 1:21-22, Rom. 8:23**). However the time for accomplishment is largely in the hands of the ambitious one.

All who are truly “born again” children of God have a plan and program reaching into placement as sons, and into being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ (**Eph. 1:5, Rom. 8:29**). But not all will exercise the diligence to reach readiness at the same time. It is like the situation of a very rich man with vast business enterprises who has a large family of children. They vary in age from babies to teenagers. It is the father's purpose for all of his sons and daughters to be adequately cared for, disciplined, schooled and prepared for entering his business. On the day that they have grown sufficiently in maturity of understanding and responsibility to be given a share in the family inheritance, they would be *placed* as mature sons and daughters in positions or posts of executive oversight in the family business.

Obviously, not all the children would be ready for placement in supervisory positions at the same time, but the difference in their ages would not be the only reason. Some would be more diligent than others, wanting to please their father and quickly prove that they had become trustworthy, responsible, faithful, etc. Some of the others might be so selfish, careless and foolish as to fritter away both time and opportunities for preparation. Therefore, some would require much more time for the father to prove them, and even more time before they could be placed in positions of responsibility and then share in the family inheritance. Although the same course of preparation for all has been established by the father, the child can stretch out the required time for adequate preparation over many years.

Those to be received by Christ when He comes are to be received for placement in positions of responsibility in His business, and they must have been made ready (**Matt. 24:44, 25:10; Rev. 19:7**). Jesus warned of there being believers who are to be rejected as unqualified for assignments in the heavenly Kingdom (**Matt. 7:21-23, 22:11-14, 25:10-12; Lk. 12:45-47**). Paul, too, paralleled the parable of the wise and foolish virgins in **Ephesians 5:14-18**. Therefore, awake and rise from among the “dead” (even virgins may sleep in spiritual deadness), and Christ will give you light (oil for the virgin's lamps). Look carefully how you walk (accurately, purposefully, worthily), not as the unwise (as foolish virgins), but as sensible and intelligent people (as wise virgins), buying up each opportunity (making the best possible use of it), because the pitfalls and temptations are many. Therefore do not be thoughtless and unwise, but understand what is the will of the Lord (**Matt. 7:21**). Do not become drunk with the hindering wine (distorted faith) of Babylon (**Rev. 17:2**), for that is excess. But be filled with the Spirit (the *extra* oil of the wise virgins).

High Priest. The Bride should also have been ready at that time, having adorned herself with jewels (noble character traits acceptable to her Bridegroom). She corresponded to the age of about 20 for the nation – 2,000 years from Abraham and Isaac.

Jesus came then to Israel for His Bride, but natural Israel was not willing to be made ready at the time of His coming in human flesh. She refused to receive her Bridegroom, choosing rather to continue her illicit affair with Rome who was then living with her. Jesus alluded to this fact in the conversation with the woman at Jacob's well (*Jn. 4:16-18*). The woman represented God's covenant people, Jacob-Israel. In the Greek, the word for husband and man is the same and so it is the context which determines whether husband or man is meant. Jesus did not say she had been *married* to five husbands. He said she had lived with five different men who had held her captive, and the man then living with her was not her husband. Israel had been repeatedly warned about her unfaithfulness to Yahweh and about having affairs with other nations and their idol-gods. These involvements had resulted in her becoming captive to those nations, with whom she then had to live (*Ezek. 16:26-32; 23:2-9, 14-17, 22-23, 30*). The five men with whom Israel lived were Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece. The man she was living with at the time of Jesus' coming was Rome.

However, it was Israel's determination to have Rome instead of her true Bridegroom (*Jn. 19:15, Lk. 19:14*); therefore, Jesus was crucified. But God's purpose cannot be defeated. The rejection of the Bridegroom brought about His death, but His death was used to buy back *all* of sinful humanity. His death was also used to put in force a new marriage contract with a replacement spiritual Israel, superseding the one made at Mt. Sinai. The ancient Israel Bride was not ready to receive her Bridegroom and so the marriage could not be consummated at His first coming. Then by His glorification into celestial habitation, a *new* contract became necessary – a heavenly one. Therefore, an extended period of time was necessary so that a new spiritual Israel from among the Gentiles could be made ready. During the past 1900 years, the glorified Christ has been working on their preparation so that He might take out a people from the Gentiles for His Name (*Acts 15:14*). It is the Bride who will take her Husband's name. And so a replacement Israel Bride out of the children of promise will have been made ready to receive the Lord Jesus at His soon coming again (*Rom. 4:13-16, 9:6-8; Gal. 3:16-22, 29, 4:22-31*).

This time, the physical joining in marriage *will* be made possible. The Bridegroom will not again divest Himself of Deity and lower Himself to the plane of human flesh by incarnation, as before. The joining will be through the process of raising or transforming the bodies of the Bride company to the plane of glorified life. Then the Bride can dwell with her Husband in bodies like His own glorious body (*Phil. 3:20-21*). The raising up which is now to be the experience of the Bride, is also to be the 3 1/2 years later experience of the Bridal retinue – those who will be her maidens in waiting and those who will be the government organization of the Great King (*Jn. 6:40, 44*).

THE BRIDE'S QUALIFICATIONS

All born again (regenerated) Christians are Christ's intended, although they are not sufficiently mature to be joined to the Bridegroom in their 60-fold partial fruitfulness in the soul. All born again and then Spirit-sanctified Christians are also

the world order (*Rev. 17:1-2, 18:2-3; Jer. 17:5*). She has glorified herself. Being unwilling to recognize that she is a widow, she is determined to live as a queen in self-gratification (*Rev. 18:7*). She may appear as a queen today, conducting herself in a way to appeal to the “flesh,” but she will not be the Lord’s queen when He comes to take those who are called and chosen and faithful (*Rev. 17:14*).

From the historical record of unfaithfulness throughout the Church of Christendom, we can accept the impact of Paul’s words about being jealous for the one Husband and for the chaste virgin (*II Cor. 11:1-3*). It is through soul-desires (Eve) that those who have been initially wed in spirit to Christ can be beguiled and turned from single and pure devotion to Christ. Then they enter into intimate associations with the world order and its defilements. And that disqualifies her members from being presented to Christ as a chaste virgin, His Bride.

The 144,000 Bride company, as Firstfruits, cannot have become defiled with “women.” They must not be straying after soul desires into compromising situations with the world, including the “faith” of the apostate religious world. This group of prepared men and women is also pictured as masculine, as the Manchild of *Revelation 12:5*, because it is a group of overcomers who are living and walking in the Spirit, rather than submitting to the “flesh” (*Gal. 5:16-26*). Those who walk after the leading of the Spirit fill up or make full the righteousness of the Law – without the Law breathing down their necks (*Rom. 8:4*). The “linen garment of righteousness,” in which the Bride is seen clothed, is *gradually woven* into the very fabric of her inner being, until it is full or complete (*Rev. 19:8*).

Matured overcomers are those who have not defiled their “garments,” after having them cleansed and made white by the blood of the Lamb (*Rev. 3:4, 7:14*). The surface dirt and stains of past sins are washed away after repentance by the application of the blood when forgiveness of sins is received (*Rev. 1:5, Acts 22:16, I Cor. 6:11*). But total purity is only by the Spirit’s power (and He can work in anyone only because of the prior application of the blood). Only the Spirit power can bleach out the ground-in filth of the sin *nature* in the human soul, making it pure and white. The intensity of the whiteness or brightness of the inner garment depends upon the degree to which the Spirit has been permitted to keep out that which is of self-life and sin within. The whiteness or brightness must approach that which Jesus demonstrated on the Mount of Transfiguration in His garments, if those who would become His Bride are to adorn Him as His intimate Body and be one with Him (*Matt. 17:2, Mk. 9:3*). It is the pure white in soul who shall see God and dwell with Him (*Matt. 5:8*). It is the Spirit glory or brightness and power which sanctifies or separates from all inner defilement, and then imparts and progressively weaves in the righteousness of Christ (*Ex. 29:43, Rom. 15:16*). This separation is the holiness without which no man shall see the Lord (*Heb. 12:14*). Both the removing and imparting (negative and positive) aspects of the Spirit’s work are needed. But they are accomplished in a “yoke-bearing” position, which must incorporate personal initiative in cooperation through love, else there is little work completed (*Matt. 11:28-30*).

Note the importance of making the inner garment clean and then not defiling it again (*Rev. 3:4, 14:4*). Those who are in white will walk with the Lord Jesus, for they are worthy. *Walk* worthy of the calling in which you are called (*Eph. 4:1*). *Walk* as children of the light (*Eph. 5:8*). Enoch so *walked* with God (*Gen. 5:24, Heb. 11:5*). So

But the daily cleansing (it is to be daily) is truly effective only if the Word is heeded and applied in cooperation, and received into the inner being for its teaching, reproof, correction and instruction into righteousness (*Prov. 1:22-23, Ps. 25:10, II Tim. 3:15-17*).

The Bride to be presented to the Husband, Jesus Christ, is to be a chaste virgin, unblameable and unreprouvable in His sight (*II Cor. 11:2, Col. 1:22*). Every man presented to Christ must be "perfect" before Him. The Greek word for "unblameable" should not be translated "without fault" or "faultless." It refers to a level of acceptability, even with some "leaven." It is because she does retain some leaven, until just before presentation to the Father of our Lord. Those being joined to Christ are seen *by Him* as without blemish at their attained level (*Rev. 14:4-5*). It is only through the grace of God that any man can be presented to Him blameless, and yet that grace must be implemented by man's initiative and choice. Therefore in anticipation of these things, be diligent so that you may be found at peace with Him, without spot and blameless when He comes (*II Pet. 3:14*). The only Church He can receive is a glorious Church, one in which He perceives no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but holy and without blame (*Eph. 5:27*).

In addition to the chaste virgin and blameless status required of the Church members who will be presented to the Lord, it is indicated they must be perfected (*Col. 1:28*). This Greek word means finished or completed, within the phase of the work undertaken – completion of that project (*Phil. 1:6*). It also pictures the growing up into maturity or sincere uprightness (*Eph. 4:11-16*). Every step toward each of the interim goals is required of each child by the Heavenly Father (*Matt. 5:48*). There is a prescribed measure of perfection or completion or maturity that is to be incorporated into the inner being of each one called up (*I Jn. 2:28-3:3*). Each must continue to grow and progress in perfection or maturing toward placement in full sonship (*I Pet. 2:2, II Pet. 3:18, Heb. 6:1, Eph. 4:12-13*).

The conduct of the loving Father's school for His children is pictured in measure by the way in which man carries on his schooling for his young ones. Every portion of revealing (instruction) is followed by tests on the instruction of the immediate past and also by exams on the longer span of learning. Instruction, practice, then testing and proving is the Lord's pattern for the maturing of His beloved, so He might then have an experiential foundation on which to build more (*Deut. 8:2-3*).

Jesus also spoke of those who reach the maturity of the Bride company as following the example given by the Lamb of God, following Him wherever He goes, and guileless (*Rev. 14:4-5, I Pet. 2:21-22*). What then is the process of following the Lamb wherever He goes? In order to follow Him as His disciple, it is also required to disregard self-interests and to take up the cross of conformance to His plan, the giving of self to His purposes (*Matt. 16:24*). This reaches far beyond initial salvation, which is a free gift. In *Matthew 16:24* etc., Jesus was giving the requirements for those who would follow Him to the summit of full sonship, to His *disciples* of whatever time. Such a one will have taken up the yoke of Christ (the performance of His will) and is being taught or tutored by Him so as to eventually arrive at the completeness and maturity of the Master (*Matt. 19:21, 11:29; Lk. 6:40*). Jesus Himself lived out the example of self-denial, obedience and self-sacrifice, and complete submission to His Father's will. There must be willingness to forsake all which would in any way hinder from going on with Him. To give more importance to any person or thing other than loving cooperation

Lord's commands, and it becomes dazzling white. But she is not permitted to be so clothed, until she has received the second and final bleaching out of "leaven" stains by the blood of Christ in the heavenly Temple, just before she enters the Holiest Place to be presented to the High Father. Compare *Leviticus 23:17* with *Revelation 19:8* and see leaven and no leaven.

The prize of the high calling (*Phil. 3:14*), the victor's crown of royalty (*Rev. 3:11*) is given to those received into the heavenly Kingdom to rule and reign with Christ. It is life manifested in a personal glorified physical body like Christ's own glorified body (*Phil. 3:21*). This is the outgrowth of the small white stone (*Rev. 2:17*) which outgrowth is elsewhere symbolized by being clothed in white (*Rev. 3:4-5, 7:9*). The garments which the Bride and Harvest companies have kept undefiled are the inner soul garments, originally washed in the Blood of the Lamb (*Rev. 1:5, 7:14*), which have been kept adequately white and pure by the enabling of the Holy Spirit through conformance to the Truth and through the repetitive washings of the water of the Word (*I Pet. 1:22, Eph. 5:25-27*). Members of this company walk with Christ in white, being accepted by Him for being clothed in their glorified bodies. Because the overcomer is so clothed, he has no further need to be hid in Christ, and Jesus is able to confess his name before the Father and before His angels (*Rev. 3:5*). None except those so clothed will ever be ushered into the presence of the Most High God. These first overcomers will already have the fruits of righteousness (*Phil. 1:11, Heb. 12:11*) fulfilled in them at the beginning of the Great Tribulation, in preparation for marriage to the Lamb. The face to face meeting takes place at the beginning. The final cleansing is on the Great Day of Atonement following the close of the Great Tribulation, preceding the consummation and the marriage supper.

:9 Three and one-half years and about two weeks after the initial face to face meeting of the Bride and Bridegroom, there are to be two suppers taking place simultaneously, the marriage supper of the Lamb in heaven (:7-9) and the great supper of human flesh on earth resulting from the Bowls of Wrath outpouring (:17-18).

The Lord spoke prophetically about a preparation and a sacrifice during the Day of the Lord (*Zeph. 1:7*). In this verse is implied a day of preparation to be followed by a day of sacrifice. In much of end-time prophecy, a "day" is measured as 42 earth years. Jesus was in His Father's business for 21 years (age 12 to 33), which He said was the 12 "hours" of daylight (*Jn. 9:4, 11:9*). Therefore, the equivalent of the 24 hours in His "day" would be 42 earth years. We might see this pattern fulfilled in more than one way. The "day of preparation" for the nations began with World War I. It was World War I which opened developments leading to the rebirth, recognition and then establishment of Israel as a nation – 1948 into the 1950s – all in preparation. The preliminaries of World War I gathered momentum in 1914. The "day of sacrifice" followed the 42 years of preparation. Israel then faced a rapidly-growing threat of extinction from Egypt which, in 1956, led to the Suez Canal crisis. Israel read the "handwriting on the wall." Then followed military action and a most unfortunate intervention by the USA. The sacrifice continued through the wars of 1967 and 1973. The 42 year "day of sacrifice" would end about 1998-99. Time will tell if we see another more intense "day of sacrifice" begin at the end of this millennium.

But again, the Day of the Lord can be seen in other ways. The Day does not burst on us all of a sudden; it begins or dawns gradually, as can be seen from two perspec-

the heavenly "Body" of our Lord. The term "Manchild" pictures the spiritual maturity of which the Manchild is a type. None but matured sons (now both men and women) will comprise the Bride company to fill the very choicest roles in the heavenly realm. These matured "sons" shall then watch over, "mother," and prepare others on earth during the Tribulation who are going to be received into the heavenlies and who will make up the vast host of the guests at the marriage supper.

Psalm 45 pictures the King and then the Queen in gold (spiritual preparedness) of Ophir (**45:9,13**), for she is all glorious within and her clothing is of wrought gold in raiment of needlework. But notice the others mentioned. The virgins, her companions, follow her (**45:14**); since they follow her, they arrive later. The later arrivals are the foolish virgins of **Matthew 25:1-12**, left behind when the wise virgins (the Bride) are taken in with Him at the midnight hour. But **Psalm 45** shows that they too shall be brought to the King, although later. There is gladness and rejoicing when the foolish virgins do enter the King's palace (**Ps. 45:15**) in the inner realm of heaven where the marriage festivities take place. Initially, the foolish virgins are barred from entering with the wise virgin company. But when that great event occurs, there will yet be time for the foolish virgins to prove themselves so that the Lord may know them (**Matt. 25:12**).

Jesus told about a friend who seeks bread *at midnight* and receives the answer, "**The door is now shut and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and supply you**" (**Lk. 11:7**). In the **Luke 11:5-10** parable, why 3 loaves when one should do for the evening meal with a literal visitor? Why the mention of midnight? Why the mention of children in bed? Similarly in **Matthew 25** after the wise virgins had gone in, the door was shut and the children (the wise virgins) were inside with Him, but the friend or foolish virgin was outside, knocking. Yet notice that because the friend is persistent and insistent, the benefactor will afterward get up and give him as much as he needs. Jesus then concluded the parable with the assurance that during the Great Tribulation (after the midnight hour) those who remain may receive all necessary to eventually have the door opened to them. "**Keep on asking and it shall be given you; keep on seeking and you shall find; keep on knocking and it shall be opened to you**" (**Lk. 11:8-9**).

The 3 loaves correspond to the "asking," "seeking" and "knocking," but it is not until the 3rd loaf or the knocking that the assurance is given that the door will be opened. Likewise, the 3 loaves correspond to the 30, 60 and 100-fold groups of Christians (**Mk. 4:20**), and it is only those of the 3rd loaf of the 100-fold who can "knock" and have the door opened to enter into the marriage supper of the Lamb in the "palace" of heaven. The members of the 30 and 60-fold will remain on earth to work for the earth-based Kingdom.

Jesus told another parable about a friend who is expelled from among guests assembled for an earthly wedding feast, because he did not have on the specified wedding garment (**Matt. 22:12-13**). So it must also be in the heavenlies, only the 100-fold, full-grain-in-the-ear (**Mk. 4:28**) Christian will have the wedding garment- necessary for attending the heavenly wedding supper. Exclusion will be the lot of many who are content to secure less than the 3 loaves or levels of attainment necessary for entrance into the heavenly feast. The "garment" is the same as that of the "fine linen of righteousness" (**Rev. 19:8**). The righteousness of Christ imputed to a person in the initial steps toward the Kingdom is not sufficient by itself. That is only an introduction. Then the righteousness of Christ must also be imparted *within* (His glorified seed within,

The Lord Jesus repeatedly emphasized the necessity of watching for the time of His return. In **Mark 13:33-37**, it is written, ***“Be alert and watch, for you do not understand the time when He will come . . . , in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. Watch, lest He come unexpectedly and find you asleep. And what I say to you, I say to everybody, watch.”*** The admonition to watch is intimately linked with references to the night watches as they were then in use under Roman rule. The first watch (at even) was from 6 to 9 p.m.; the second watch (midnight) was from 9 to 12 p.m.; the third watch (cockcrow) was from 12 to 3 a.m.; and the fourth watch (in the morning) was from 3 to 6 a.m. Although Jesus was emphasizing their inability to comprehend the conditions prevailing at the time of His coming, He was also giving a veiled insight into its several phases. A phase of His coming is to be fulfilled in each of the four watches.

According to Jewish reckoning of time, a new 24 hour day always began with the setting of the sun, at even, so the new day begins with the setting-in of darkness. However, darkness is always associated with the world, not with Christ and not with *ready* Christians (***I Thess. 5:5***). In those days, people generally did very little after sunset, going to bed and to sleep and then rising early in the morning with the rising of the sun. But in ***I Thessalonians 5:6***, Paul wrote, “let us not sleep as others do (the world), but let us watch.” The seeming enigma is resolved by realizing the difference between ready Christians and the world. Ready Christians are enlightened and prepared. They are children of light, of the day, and not of darkness or the night. When Jesus spoke of His coming first “at even,” He spoke to that end-time period when the *new day* is beginning. To the world it means the setting in of rapidly increasing darkness, but to those who are watching, the first watch of the new day means a rapid increase of spiritual light and truth. It is His coming in the further revelation of Himself to give light (understanding) to His *intimate* followers.

But it is a new day only to those who are watching; to those not sleeping as is the world. We have been witnessing the development of the new day of the Lord, announced by the reestablishment of Israel as a nation. Since the first century apostolic days there has been no such an increase in available spiritual light and understanding as in our day. To the very few who are awake and watching, the Spirit of the Lord is speaking, ***“Arise, shine, for your light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you” (Isa. 60:1)***. But the next verse shows the contrast between that which is taking place among the watching ones in the first watch, and that which is overtaking the world. “For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth and dense darkness the peoples, but the Lord shall arise upon you and His glory shall be seen upon you.” Thus the Lord is coming in the power of His Spirit to bring light and glory to His people. We are now well beyond the inception period of His approach “at even,” the first watch of the new day.

Jesus also warned that He would additionally come “at midnight” which concludes the second watch of the night. But we must keep in mind the double significance of the prophetic picture. To most of the world the Day of the Lord is a period of increasing darkness (***Joel 2:1-2, Amos 5:18, Zeph. 1:14-15***). But to God’s called out remnant, who are watching and who are not of the night or of the darkness and who are not still asleep, it is a time of increasing spiritual light. It was at midnight that the great cry was heard, “Behold, the Bridegroom.” Then the wise virgins were taken into the marriage, but the foolish virgins were left. To the unprepared, as to the foolish virgins, the Lord

sing a song of victory and deliverance (*Rev. 15:2-4*). Immediately following the reaping (gathering) of the elect saints, another angel with a sharp sickle is commanded to gather the grape clusters of the vine of the earth, for they are over-ripe. The angel does so and casts them into the great winepress of the wrath of God (*Rev. 14:17-19*). This winepress action is the result of the seven Bowls of Wrath being poured out on the earth (*Rev. 15:1,7; 16:1*). It is not until these Bowls of Wrath *begin* to be poured out on earth that the saints, who have been translated and gathered to Jesus, enter into the Temple in Heaven to share in the marriage supper of the Lamb (*Rev. 15:8*).

At the same time as the saints are participating in the marriage supper of the Lamb in the Temple in heaven, there is an invitation going out for another supper on earth, a supper of the flesh of all men, free and bond, small and great (*Rev. 19:17-18*). The guests at the supper on earth are the millions of humans who are to be slain in the pouring out of the Bowls of Wrath, and all the birds of the air (aircraft and missiles) will eat their fill of the flesh of the dead. The Day of Atonement on Tishri 10 brings the greatest of blood baths in the final and major battle, Armageddon. Fighting continues four more days sporadically, fizzling out. But in the Heavenlies there is rejoicing in being made fully free, no longer hid in Christ from Father, but finally accepted. The marriage festivities in Heaven come to an end just before the final Bowl of Wrath is poured out on the earth. Then the Lord Jesus will descend to earth to put a stop to man's insanity, followed by the multitudes of saints clothed in "fine linen, white and clean" and upon white horses (*Rev. 19:11-14*).

The final phase of the coming of the Lord, as pictured by the four watches (*Mk. 13:35*), is the watch "in the morning" – when the Lord Jesus comes with "10,000's" of His saints (*Jude 14*). He arrives just as the final Bowl is poured out and treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God (*Rev. 19:15*). He is revealed from heaven in flaming fire to take vengeance on those who willfully do not know God *and* on those who refuse to obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (*II Thess. 1:7-8*). This is when He comes with power and great glory, being seen by those on earth who have survived the 13 1/2 day nuclear holocaust which rages throughout the period of the seven Bowls of Wrath. At the sunset opening of Tishri 15, Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, places His feet on the Mt. of Olives. This triggers the greatest earthquake the world has ever known. Beyond that event, another 7,000 years minimum follow before another release and glorification of earthbound humans who have by then prepared themselves.

What the inhabitants of the earth will see first "in the morning" is the "sign" of the Son of man in heaven (*Matt. 24:30*), the "glory cloud." It will *begin* to be seen when the elect are gathered, just before the outpouring of the seven Bowls of Wrath, as a supernatural light appearing in the sky that will cause the "tribes of the land" to mourn. Finally, those "tribes" in the land of Palestine will see the Son of man coming in the clouds from heaven with power and great glory (*Matt. 24:30*). The "clouds" surrounding Him as He appears are the hosts of the redeemed and glorified saints. *Matthew 24:31* does not describe an event following His appearing in power and great glory, but explains the detail that is associated with His coming and gives the meaning of the "clouds" which accompany Him. They are the clouds of the elect previously gathered and who subsequently appear with Him in His manifestation of great glory.

In recapitulation, we are *now* to be watching for His approach. But before we fully

Then the saints in glorified power will be working diligently with saints yet in earthly bodies to secure an abundant gathering to the Lord. The day of nuptial festivities will be drawing nigh and garments of beauty and glory must be put on by all guests who would partake of the wedding supper (*Matt. 22:9-14*).

The bodily approach of Jesus Christ to the planet earth is in three stages. There is much good evidence that by 1970-71, He had left His position at the right hand of His Father and had entered the earth's upper stratosphere, from where the intense brightness of the New Jerusalem has been revealed on several occasions. The second stage was His further descent into the earth's upper atmosphere, preceding by several years the time at which the 144,000 Bride company is to be translated to meet Him where He then is. This translation is to take place on the 10th day of the lunar month of Nisan. The Lord will remain at His upper atmosphere level for exactly 1260 days. Then on the first day of the lunar month of Tishri, His household company and administrative staff will be translated to meet Him in the lower atmosphere. Two weeks later in the evening which begins the Day of Tabernacles, the 15th day of Tishri, He will descend bodily with a huge "comet" trail of the millions previously called out and glorified, His garment of light (*Matt. 24:30*). He will be seen by the tribes of the *land* (Palestine), though the sign of His coming, the "comet" trail circling the earth, will be seen elsewhere as well.

As previously shown, not all Christians will be taken when the Lord returns for His saints at the end of the Tribulation period. Only those fully separated to Him, sanctified by a complete work of His Spirit will be ready for entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven and be considered worthy (*Lk. 20:35, 21:36*). These are the 100-fold, "full-grain-in-the-ear" Christians (*Mk. 4:20-28*). Yet a Christian remnant of all nations will be protected and preserved through the Bowls of Wrath, that remnant having called upon the Name of the Lord for preservation or "saving." The remnant will be made up of the 60-fold "ear" Christians and 30-fold "blade" believers, who become the seed of the nations that will grow and replenish the earth during the Millennium of peace and righteousness.

In order for the seventh Millennium to begin as intended in this step of God's plan for mankind, He must visit the earth and sweep away the refuse of lies (*Isa. 28:17*) and begin to build that which is founded on truth. Only that which is of God can remain standing (*Heb. 12:27*). All who have refused to call upon the Name of the Lord will perish (*Isa. 13:9, Acts 3:23*), leaving mainly Christians on the face of the earth to replenish the nations in an environment of rest from the oppressor. All still alive will have recognized Jesus Christ as their Deliverer from certain annihilation.

When the earth is swept clean of its refuse, the way will be prepared for fully implementing the Kingdom of light and love. Shortly after the glorified saints return with the Lord (*Jude 14, Col. 3:4, Zech. 14:5*), they will take up their posts of responsibility to shepherd and govern the inhabitants of the earth. Then shall righteousness begin to flourish and the knowledge of the glory of the Lord shall progressively fill the earth as the waters cover the sea (*Hab. 2:14*). The Kingdom will be ruled over by the saints in glorious splendor, and those in the Kingdom will give full allegiance to Him whose identity is given as the Word of God (*Rev. 19:13*), the King of kings and the Lord of lords (*Rev. 19:16*).

: 10 The purpose of all of God's schooling of His spirit children is to equip them

them that have willfully refused to know God and on them who have knowingly disobeyed the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (*II Thess. 1:7-8, Isa. 64:1-4*). The nations will be engaged in unreasoning annihilation by nuclear war, and those fires will be raging as He returns to put an end to man's insanity. The senseless conflict develops from a ruthless war of God-denying nations against Christian nations which will have again turned to God, and it evolves into these godless nations additionally decimating themselves (*Zech. 14:13*). Few persons will remain alive who have not truly submitted to Him before the pouring out of the Bowls of Wrath is concluded. There will be but few people, a remnant of the nations, left on the earth in that day (*Isa. 24:6*). The others will be killed by the "beasts" of the field, which are the tanks, mobile guns, infantry machine guns, flame throwers, etc., and the "fowls" of the air, which are the bombers, fighters, missiles, etc.

The *Revelation 13* beast and the kings of the earth and their armies will previously have been gathered together to make war against the white horse Rider and His army. Physically, His army will be the Christian nations and peoples likely led by the USA, who will refuse to knuckle under to the dictates of the beast – even though for a time they may be enmeshed with the false prophet and his godless World Government. Thus a mighty conflict will result which is called the battle of the Great Day of God Almighty – when the beast makes war against the Lamb (*Rev. 16:14, 17:13-14*).

Unquestionably, there will also be great "armies" of glorified saints and angels in the heavenlies which will return with the Lord as He comes, but He and they will come at the climax of the battle in order to terminate it. Earthly armies have no way to contact heavenly forces in lethal combat, and so the earthly armies war against the Lamb by conflict with His followers on the earth. Nevertheless, it is truly a battle waged basically against the Lord. However, in a world battlefield in which there are far above 100 times more than enough nuclear weapons in existence to completely destroy *all* life on earth, a decisive victory on either side is impossible. Therefore, it will require the personal return of the Lord in power and great glory to put an end to the conflict, lest all flesh should be destroyed (*Matt. 24:22*).

We have seen in *Revelation 17:14* that it is the Lamb Who overcomes the beast nations. Since Jesus does not return to earth as a Lamb, but as the King of kings and Lord of lords, the Lamb's overcoming would indicate a prior supernatural help to the Christian nations *during* the battle and *before* He returns bodily to the Mount of Olives.

:20 The governments of the beast and of the false prophet (the confederacy of nations in the socialist United Nations organization) are to be completely disrupted. The Satan-inspired leaders, the beast and the false prophet who deceive the world, are immediately to be thrown alive into the symbolic Lake of Fire where the physical body dies instantly and the soul "body" slowly disintegrates as by a flame burning it away.

:21 Almost all who have not called upon the Name of the Lord, all who have received the mark of the beast, are killed by the judgment sentence of the Sword (the Word). When a voice comes out of the Temple in heaven saying, "It is done" (*Rev. 16:17*), almost none will remain on earth, except those who have received the imputed righteousness of God through Jesus Christ (not necessarily the imparted righteousness at that time).

At the moment the seventh Trumpet begins to blow, announced by the translation of

The Kingdom of Peace and Righteousness The Next Time Cycle

REVELATION 20

In the early verses of this prophecy, the subject begins with the long prayed-for period of world peace, light and righteousness. Then it is expanded to carry through the seventh Millennium and into succeeding millennia. It is for showing us today some of the onworking plans of our God.

:1 Jesus did overcome Satan, evil, death and the world, and He was given all authority and power to rule in heaven and on earth (*Matt. 28:18*). Therefore, He has the keys to death and the realm of the dead, Hades (*Rev. 1:18*). The great chain in His hand with which Satan is gradually ensnared and bound, is the might and power of the glorified saints who have overcome his deceits and perversions in the earthly realm. He is forced out of his heavenly realm (human minds) to the outposts of his remaining kingdom on earth and then he is quickly removed even from the outposts. These overcomers are the “feet” under whom Satan is now soon to be crushed (*Rom. 16:20*).

:2-3 Being defeated and completely dispossessed by Jesus Christ and His glorified Body of Christ company, Satan, the dragon, the old serpent of primeval times, is bound and then sealed in the bottomless pit for 1000 years, so he can no longer deceive and seduce nations during that Millennium of righteousness and peace.

:4-6 At the close of the Great Tribulation period in the present age, when the final blast of the seventh Trumpet will sound, the dead *in Christ* (applies only to those prepared to rule) will be raised. Immediately, the living saints who have prepared themselves for ruling also will be translated and caught up to be with the Lord (*I Thess. 4:16-17*). Having received His own, the Lord will then return with all of His glorified saints, in power and great glory (*Matt. 24:30*). But the Lord does not reserve special favors for any man; He shows no partiality (*Rom. 2:11*); He sets the same requirements for each. Christians who have met the minimum requirements for receiving their glorified bodies, whether having died in Christ or yet alive in Christ at the time for taking up, are glorified as He is glorified and translated to be with Him (*Phil. 3:21*). Christians who at that time have not yet fulfilled the minimum requirements to attain to the prize of the high calling (*Phil. 3:14*) must remain on earth. There they will function in physical bodies while they complete the required preparation so as to be ready for translation into glorified life at the next taking up, at the conclusion of one or more “work weeks” of seven 1000 year “days.”

The pouring out of the seventh Bowl of Wrath brings a mighty earthquake such as man has never experienced, and it is triggered by Jesus Christ touching His feet on the Mount of Olives (*Rev. 16:18, Zech. 14:4*). The Mount of Olives event speaks of the

ing and wisdom in all the ways of the Lord, and ambassadors of the Kingdom will go to all the nations to teach them what the Lord would have them understand and experience. There will be many who will say, ***“let us seek the Lord and let us join ourselves to the Kingdom of the Lord, and let us go up to the Mountain or Kingdom of the Lord and learn His ways”*** (*Zech. 2:11-12, Jer. 50:4-5, Isa. 2:2-4*). As time goes on, other nations shall join the Kingdom confederacy and the borders of the Kingdom will continually enlarge to receive more nations.

But inherited human nature will continue to be a factor in life during the Millennium, so some nations will be more submissive than others. Those nations, which have known the Gospel and have lived in Christian tradition and understanding, will be joined together under the Jerusalem government in a confederacy of nations to be known as the Kingdom of Israel, for they shall become one with the regenerated physical seed of Israel then dwelling in the Land of Promise. The physical seed of Abraham, having accepted the Lord and come under His rule, will be joined in the confederacy with those nations of the spiritual seed of Abraham, where the truth has been fully accepted, and where the governments are in full accord with the principles of righteousness established by the Jerusalem government. These are the two sticks which shall be joined together in that day to form one confederacy of nations (*Ezek. 37:15-19*). One is the stick of Judah (the physical seed of Abraham), purged and purified and brought into the operation of the New Covenant. The other is the stick of Ephraim, the Christian nations which have received the fullness of the Gospel and have come into the Covenant as the spiritual heirs of the Promise. These two joined together will constitute the physical environs of the Kingdom in that day.

Outside the realm of the Kingdom, there will be other nations not as spiritually advanced, whose people have had too little background and understanding in the ways of the Lord for them to be fully ready to yield to the Jerusalem government. Nevertheless, these others will be required to give token allegiance to the new government and present themselves to the Lord in Jerusalem. But the light of God's truth will not penetrate as fully into these nations as in the nations aligned with the Jerusalem government. Therefore, they will be slower to respond to the Lord's chosen Jerusalem representatives. Out of Zion shall go forth the Law, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem (*Isa. 2:2-3, Mic. 4:1-2*). Zion represents that canopy of righteous rule to be spread over the earth ('monumental pillar' or 'waymark') as the glorified saints out of the New Jerusalem above are given charge of all things (*Heb. 12:22*). From Jerusalem, the Lord's Word and His Truth will be declared as His chosen servants of that day go out to proclaim the Lord's requirements for life and immortality.

Although few will be left alive after the pouring out of the Bowls of Wrath (*Isa. 24:6*), the nations on earth will rebuild rapidly (*Isa. 60:22*). Of those left alive when the host of saints is taken, the handful ready to enter into immortality in physical bodies will be the forerunners and a firstfruits of the common inheritance of all who walk uprightly before the Lord during the Great Millennium of Peace. Subsequently, many shall enter into deathless life on earth in physical bodies, as the Lord originally intended, and they shall continue to live without death for thousands of years, indefinitely up to the time that they should be translated from the earthly to the heavenly (*Isa. 65:20*). In the Millennium, the Lord will make well-known the requirements for entering into immortality in human flesh, deathless physical life. Many born in that period will fulfill the requirements and will continue to live without seeing death. The Gospel or Good

salvation. Not at all! Once He has given, He will not take away (*Jn. 5:24, 10:28; Rom. 11:29*).

There are many realms in His Kingdom and there are places for all who have been saved. Those who have not permitted the Lord to do a complete work within will have to accept a lesser place and a lesser glory. There is a difference between the earthly glory and the heavenly glory. Those who fail to adequately progress will remain in the earthly realm until the *minimum* work is completed within. Only then shall they be prepared to be changed and elevated to a higher glory. Even in the heavenly realm there are different degrees of glory, depending on the completeness of the work done within, and the progress made up the path that eventually leads to the full stature of the heavenly Father (*Eph. 4:13*). If you would enter into the glory of the Lord and receive what has been prepared for those who love Him (obey Him), then fully cooperate so He can complete the work within. Then, you may be found worthy in that day to enter into the glories of His heavenly Kingdom.

Even those who have passed from this life through the portal called death are not all on the same level of glory. Even in the realm called Paradise (garden or waiting place *outside* the Palace which houses the Throne), there are stages and degrees of progress and different levels of attainment. Therefore, many in Paradise, having failed to let the Lord do a complete work in them while on earth, will have to return to earth to finish out their course.

There is a prescribed course for every saved person who dwells on earth and, if that course is not completed in the allotted time given to him, then he must return in what is called the resurrection of the body (*Isa. 26:19*). Then, in a body which is or becomes no longer subject to death, he will finish out that which the Lord has determined for him (*Rom. 2:11*). Then, and only then, shall he be raised up to that higher realm which is the heavenly realm. Our Lord is perfectly capable of raising up a body from one realm into another. He is perfectly capable of taking a flesh and blood physical body and transforming it into a spiritual, glorified physical body.

There are many who shall be greatly disappointed in the day of Jesus Christ's appearing (*parousia*) when they realize that they do not qualify for entrance into His heavenly Kingdom. Because they have not been sufficiently proven by the Lord, and have not let Him do a complete work in them, He must say, Depart from Me, for I have not sufficiently known you in your innermost being, and have not sufficiently proven you for you to be received by Me. Therefore, depart into that realm which is prepared for you until you have sufficiently worked out that salvation which has been designed for you, and where you will have the time and willingness to let Me perfect your innermost being so that you will then be prepared to inherit the greater glory.

Consider the ways and means by which the Lord works, through His Spirit. He must continue to work within, until you reach that place of utter abandonment to His will, even to where the illusory things of this world have lost their allure and to where nothing in this life really matters, except the fulfillment of the Divine purpose for you. This work takes so much time for most, for truly the god of this world has blinded the eyes of even the Lord's own into a totally wrong emphasis and involvement in the materialistic world of physical things. Therefore, through many hardships and disillusionments, He must continually work with you until you come to the place where your one and all-consuming desire is for the Lord and His purpose for you. Then He can

this day, even that of the denominational clergy, you shall not enter His heavenly Kingdom (*Matt. 5:20*).

His Kingdom is not for babes and toddlers; it is for those who have been brought into maturity, because His is a ruling Kingdom and only those qualified to take a responsibility in His Kingdom will be admitted into it. Others, even though saved, will be barred, until they have come into that minimum perfection required by the Lord. The precepts of the Kingdom revealed in the Sermon on the Mount should be studied anew and carefully (with Old Testament references), for therein is the pattern of the righteousness required. But the pattern is for those who are willing to be His disciples. Others will hear the words and know the outer husk of the pattern. Only those fully instructed in the precepts of the Kingdom by the Holy Spirit will reap the benefits of this righteousness of the heart. One must be drawn to the Mount and sit at His feet day by day, letting Jesus teach *His* ways, starting again from the beginning.

For those who go on to perfection (*Heb. 6:1*) prior to the Millennium, receiving all the “gold” of His Spirit’s workings and the “silver” of the Lord’s complete redemption (spirit, soul *and* body – *I Thess. 5:23*), there is an out-resurrection from among the dead (*Phil. 3:11*), or a translation while living (*I Cor. 15:51-54*), into the glory of the Heavenly Kingdom at the close of the Great Tribulation. The saved who fail to make this calling and election (*II Pet. 1:10*), if they survive the Tribulation and Bowls of Wrath, will continue to live on earth, eventually receiving deathless life for their physical bodies. Those failing ones who have already died will be born again as babies or be resurrected back to the earth in adult physical bodies after the Millennial Kingdom has been fully established (after the 1000 years). Even the unsaved must return prior to the Great White Throne judgment. Each person is given time and opportunity to attain to the high calling, but the initiative and choice is with the individual. Narrow is the gate to heaven and many will not be able to enter (*Lk. 13:24*). Many, even though they be evangelists, the Lord will not know sufficiently (*Matt. 25:12*). He will send even saved ones away for further preparation.

The Bible speaks of believers at several levels of growth, blade-of-grass believers (30-fold), ear-of-grain Christians (60-fold) and full-grain-in-the-ear Christians (100-fold) (*Mk. 4:20-28*).

:5 From those who have died, only the 100-fold Christians (fully matured) experience an out-resurrection (*Phil. 3:11*) from the dead in Paradise for placement in the heavenly Kingdom in glorified bodies. At the close of the Great Tribulation, all matured 100-fold Christians, both dead and alive, are given glorified bodies and taken into the Heavenly Kingdom (*I Thess. 4:16-17*). There they rule and reign with Christ for 1000 years over the re-established nations of earth. The fact that this out-resurrection is termed “the first” indicates that more resurrections follow. The rest of the dead do not live again, until after the 1000 years. Some will be born as new babies; some will return in matured physical bodies. Both the 60-fold and the 30-fold who have died will physically return to earth, but beginning some time after the 1000 years are finished (*Heb. 3:11*). Those resurrected come back to earth in grown physical bodies and live together with persons naturally born into the nations of that day, all having opportunity to progress into the perfection required.

All the proven 60-fold Christians are to be resurrected with incorruptible physical bodies to finish out their course sometime after the 1000 years are completed (*Lk. 20:35-*

Divine life (seed) which continually draws them to the Father, they earnestly desire to do what is right even though they slip at times. It is because of this drawing that they are amenable to His correction when needed. But the 30-fold have not received such Life and it remains to them but a promise. Yet, because they have made a beginning and have exercised an incipient faith in the crucified Savior, they will be protected by His blood as long as they continue and do not turn back. However, at any time the 30-fold one is ready to fully yield himself into *the* Faith and in full repentance, he can be “born anew” and come into secure possession of eternal soul-life (*Jn. 5:24*). The author of Hebrews wrote “we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of them who believe (fully) to the preserving of the soul” (*Heb. 10:39*), an event *and* a practice, the rooting of the Word in patient endurance (*Jms. 1:21, Lk. 21:19*). He refers to eternal life in the soul which regenerates it and causes it to pass from death to life forevermore.

God does not allow any person to skip steps in His schooling (*Rom. 2:11*). The 30-fold who have not turned back, receive continued shelter in the environment around Paradise after they die, but since the absolute possession of eternal life is yet but a promise to them, they must be resurrected back to mortal life on earth to progress into the attainment of eternal life and then eventually to immortal physical bodies (*II Cor. 5:1-4*). They are given another term to finish out the prescribed course, but even then they face the danger of losing out, if they do not go on. Since they have had an opportunity to be conditioned and further prepared in the environment at Paradise, most will go on to be completely regenerated, receiving life eternal for their souls and then, in time, immortality for their physical bodies. The saved who are resurrected to immortal physical bodies are all 60-fold Christians who previously received possession of life eternal for their souls. However, even an *immortal* 60-fold can sin again, and again initiate the dying process in his physical body.

:6 Only fully prepared Christians (100-fold) who participate in the first resurrection, out from among the dead, or who enter while still alive will participate in the rule and reign with Jesus Christ in His Heavenly Kingdom. They will have been proven to a point where there is no possibility of a change in loyalty and so the second death, death of either the resurrection physical body or the soul, has no power or authority over them.

:7 The “mountain” of the Lord’s house shall be firmly established as highest of the mountains. The mountain or Kingdom of the Lord will be exalted above all other kingdoms or nations, and many nations shall flow to it. The glory of the Lord will be present, and conditions of life and health and prosperity in the Kingdom will be so much better, that all nations will look to Jerusalem and to the Kingdom to receive understanding in the ways of the Lord (*Jer. 12:14-17*).

Here it will help to go back to the Old Testament patterns, in order to gain an understanding of the sequence of events in the ages impending. The Old Testament patterns are vital for an understanding of the subsequent developments in the ages following (*Jn. 5:47*). The era of the Law was pictured by the kingdom of Saul. Because of disobedience, it was necessary to establish a norm of conduct and enforce it. That was the Mosaic Law. Even as it grieves a normal parent to find that his beloved children just won’t pay attention to his plan for their best interests, and that it is essential to enforce a strict law upon them, so it grieved the Heavenly Father. Saul means “asked for.” “In My anger I gave them a king, and I took him away in My wrath” (*Hos. 13:11*).

into their own through the unveiling of the sons of God during the age now almost upon us. In it many shall shift from mortality to immortality. This age is typed by the Kingdom of Solomon. Solomon means “peace.” Solomon does *not* type Christ; Solomon types the age or era. No king before or after attained to the wisdom Solomon obtained from God, and that great wisdom of Jesus Christ Almighty will be manifested when He sets up the *earthly* Kingdom. (He will have previously received His spiritual Kingdom in the heavenlies and returned with it into the New Jerusalem in the earth’s stratosphere.) **“Your will be done on earth as it already is done in heaven” (Matt. 6:10).**

There are to be 1000 years in the Millennial Age (**Rev. 20:2-3,5-7**). So did Solomon have 1000 wives, each one symbolizing a year. How odd it seems to us today that a man of Solomon’s great and surpassing wisdom and with so much training in the Law of His God would amass 1000 wives. And they were not all wives, as we think of the term today. Of the 1000, there were 300 who were young concubines. And to think that this man of wisdom would allow himself to be so demoralized that he would be led into gross idolatry by them! But it all fits the patterns lived out by rebellious mankind during each of the ages.

Adam and Eve liked the “fruit,” sold out their spiritual birthright and catapulted all their progeny into bondage to sin. Esau’s empty stomach prompted him to sell his spiritual birthright for a physical comfort. When Jacob saw the food supplies dwindling in the Promised Land, he too left behind that birthright which had cost such a high price, to join Joseph in Egypt where there was plenty. Yet Esau stayed in Edom and survived. A few hundred years after the Israelites had returned to the prosperity of Canaan, they had grown fat and began selling out their birthright on a national scale. So again God plunged them into captivity for a season. In the days of our Lord, the rulers were so cocksure that their kingdom had been established – they had the Temple and they had the city Jerusalem and so nothing would displace them. Therefore, they reasoned, “This is the Heir. Let us take and slay Him and cast Him out of the vineyard. Then the inheritance will be ours” (**Lk. 20:9-16**). These things formed the procession to Calvary. Soon the Roman legions came, and then rivers of human blood and final dispersion. As soon as the Chosen People had secured a measure of comfort and thought they could see their security, the spiritual principle was sold out for a material consideration. Even Solomon did the same!

Solomon typed the era of the now approaching 1000 year Sabbath “day.” But he certainly did not type the Christ! Solomon’s 700 wives picture the first 700 years of the Millennium period which is now in preparation and which will commence at about 2000 A.D. The 700 wives measure the period from 2000 to 2700 A.D. But the 700 year period in itself will also be a Sabbath “week.” During that Sabbath week, conditions on earth will approximate those of a paradise on earth. Truth shall flourish, unblemished health will be a common property, hospitals will be empty, and a material abundance will abound. But again, will the people be mature enough to be able to take it? Without that minimum level of maturity, an abundance of food, etc. brings apathy, and God tells us they will *not* be able to take it. During the 700 years, those within the true Kingdom perimeter will live in full conformance to the pleasurable will of God, under the strict surveillance of the glorified saints and with the overshadowing of His Spirit and abundant blessing (**Rev. 2:26-27**). Truth will go forth and the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as waters fill the sea. The fruits of truth and righteousness lived out in human lives shall be seen everywhere. There will be thousands from 600 to

With the death of Solomon, the Adam cycle of six 1000 year work week “days” and their Sabbath “day” is concluded. The Sabbath “day” is for rest and also for preparation for the succeeding work week. The next “Monday” 1000 year day follows the Sabbath’s completion. Solomon has been finished, but the sons of Solomon now plot for power. Rehoboam pictures the strictest adherence to the truths revealed during the first 700 years of the Sabbath. The subjects of the far-flung nations send ambassadors to Jerusalem to negotiate for a relaxing of the strictness of the codes. Lucifer is coming into his stride. But Rehoboam decides that more severity is needed, not laxity. And that decision rends the Kingdom.

The Word of Truth always divides. The Kingdom splits into two factions. One is Jerusalem-centered and it adheres to the strictest code. The other is more liberal in thought, comprising the northern kingdom. North stands for materialism and carnality, and Jeroboam, who became king over the northern kingdom, was shown as having come back from out of Egypt – which is a type of this world in its fullness of materialism and carnality. In the preview, the northern kingdom eventually went into complete and final dispersion. It was an allegory to show how the product of the liberal thinkers will become completely reabsorbed by the carnal elements in the outlying countries. But serious inroads will also be made against the faction holding to the strict code and centered in Jerusalem. The numerous wars and the natures of the reigns of the kings of Judah portray the subsequent struggle between the forces of good and evil, between Lucifer and the messengers of Light.

Evangelists will continue to go out from the Holy City to present the “Gospel of Everlasting,” the Gospel of Eonian Life (**Rev. 14:6**). The Gospel of Grace and Salvation, as we know it today, will be no more (**Jer. 31:34**). The emphasis will be on physical preservation. The Gospel of Eonian Life deals with immortality in human flesh on earth in the contemporary scene, but it has its corollary – immutable law. The loving Father has been showing His grace and mercy towards ignorant adolescents, but when a full understanding of truth is achieved and its fruits everywhere manifested, there remains no more excuse for either error or sin. Therefore, inexorable law takes over. From him who has received much, much more is required. Revealing and understanding bring responsibility. This progression is in harmony with and preparatory to the later era when the Son yields up the Kingdom to the Absolute, all in it having become self-governing (**I Cor. 15:24-26**).

The work of the loving Father among His children is progressive. Each next phase of His work is at a higher level. Each level is designed to bring the children closer to being and thinking and working as He does. The conditions of the next work “week” will not be the same as they are today. The whole world will be on a new and high-level cycle of a wave of increased devotion and spirituality. What is considered adequate or even fanatic today will not be adequate in the next cycle. The liberal thinkers of the next work week would compare very favorably with the staunchest churchgoers of today who live their profession in good and honorable lives seven days a week. The truly religious of the next cycle would be classed as *extreme* fanatics today. The crime incidents we know today will be a rarity within the countries which are voluntarily and fully subject to David’s theocratic Jerusalem government.

The great objective of the Kingdom ages is that of becoming full-blown, unveiled “sons of God.” The objective is immortality in human flesh, becoming immune to

nism).

Again a people will be ready to be deceived completely by Satan and his hosts. Loving not the truth, they will be turned away to vanity. And once again, at the close of the Millennium, the Lord will allow Satan to go forth to bring delusion and blindness, because the hearts of the people will be persistently not right toward God. Satan will cause these nations with plans of their own to turn more and more to the desires of their own ways. They will begin to throw off the "yoke" of the Jerusalem government to which they have had to give token allegiance, and they will rebel at any attempt to bring them toward a further understanding of the Lord's ways.

There will be a gradual cleavage and division between those nations entirely within the Kingdom confederacy, which are completely subject to the Jerusalem government, and those nations desiring to assert their independence. The division will increase over a period of time, until there is a complete separation and, once again, a Satan-inspired society begins to grow on the earth. The Lord will not directly intervene, because it is His purpose to once more test the then inhabitants of the earth and cause them to see the vanity of their own ways. As their hearts are turned away from the Lord, Satan is loosed from his prison to deceive the nations asserting their independence. Then as now, the Word of God will separate. Evil breeds within itself a fervent hatred of that which is good. Having been deceived, these nations will begin to lay the foundation for another full-scale rebellion against God and against His Anointed. Therefore, they will plan and labor much to the end that the "camp of the saints," centered in Jerusalem, shall be wiped off from the face of the earth.

God's patterns hold throughout the ages. In ancient history, it was the Assyrians, a confederation of nations north of Jerusalem, who came against the city. Later, it was the Roman confederation of nations which came from Asia Minor, north of Jerusalem. In our time, it is to be the confederation of nations which will come down from the north. After the final period of ages, it will again be the confederation of nations in the north which will seek to nullify the work and rule of the saints in Jerusalem.

But these developments do not occur in just a few years. It took Satan many hundreds and thousands of years to bring man to the present state of chaos and rebellion, a rebellion so great that the Lord must now interfere and bring judgment. And Satan did this with man in a state of corruption and defilement through sin. But after the Millennium of peace and righteousness, without the oppressing influence of Satan, the world will have had the benefit of hundreds of years of the blessings of light and truth in practical demonstration and application. In such a setting, Satan would not be able to turn the hearts of people in a short time. It would again take some thousands of years before Satan is once more able to launch a rebellion of the scope necessitating another Divine interference. Many thousands will have entered a state of deathless life on earth and the influence of righteousness will be strong, even after Satan has plied his deceptions for hundreds of years. Therefore, many millennia will pass before he is able to deceive entire nations and hold them completely in the web of his delusions. If one day is to the Lord as 1000 years, and 1000 years as one day, a "short time" to the Lord is surely a period extending beyond a "day" or two (*II Pet. 3:8, Rev. 20:3*).

So do not consider that which man has taught, nor that which makes the Word of God of no effect. God will reveal by His Spirit in *this* day many mysteries which have been hidden, but no man shall understand them except those drawn by Him. He will

our 6000 year work week are the Harvest of the planting and growth of this season. If it required 6000 years for this harvest to mature, it will also take a minimum of another 6000 years beyond the Millennium for the planting of the next season to mature into its more advanced truths and responsibilities. Theirs will be higher truths and theirs will be responsibilities on a higher plane of attainment. The harvest of the next cycle of ages cannot possibly take place before 10,000 A.D.

First the Harvest of the present age must be completed, culminating the work of the several ages. The harvest of one cycle of ages brings the seed time for the next season of ages, and what is sown at that beginning reaches its consummation in the final age of that maturing period. Therefore, after the fully prepared ones of our time are harvested into the heavenly Kingdom at the completion of the present age, those immortal and glorified ones of the Lord shall be manifested on earth from time to time for preparing the field and then planting the seed for the crop of the ages impending beyond the Millennium. The next series of ages will then see its harvest reaped when those who have entered immortality in earthly bodies are gathered into the heavenly Kingdom, translated from the earthly to the heavenly realm. God's plan is ever progressive, reaching ever higher planes of advancement toward the ultimate goal which He determined when His plan was fully worked out before the downfall of humanity. Many ages must yet come and go before the final work of His plan shall come to pass (*Eph. 2:7*).

During the eighth "day" and following, much will take place to lead the inhabitants of the earth into a more complete understanding of all God has purposed. There will also be further developments in the activities of Satan to bring about his final attempt to overthrow that which is God's righteous will and design. But he will not succeed. What God establishes in the earth in a Kingdom of truth and righteousness shall ever increase in power and dominion. The "independent" nations which Satan will eventually bring under his control will not be able to deter what the Lord will be accomplishing in the Kingdom confederacy of nations.

However, the nations spurning God's perfect will for them shall eventually come into an understanding of the nature of many more of what today still remain secrets in the physical make-up of the atom. Through the direction of their achievements into a reach for supremacy among the nations of the world, the independent nations under Russia will again gain confidence in their ability to completely destroy and take over everything within the Kingdom conclave. Therefore, they will set themselves to develop a super-weapon capable of utter destruction of the then immense metropolis of Jerusalem and the fanaticism of those aligned with the Jerusalem government.

:9 Having perfected the plan to eliminate all opposition to their plan for world domination, they will strike at the stronghold of the Kingdom rule, Jerusalem and its far-flung environs. This will be Lucifer's last spree when he leads Gog and Magog against the "camp" of the glorified saints. They will encompass the camp or fortress of the saints by electronically aiming their super-nuclear bomb of tremendous power, inconceivably greater than those today, at the central target, timing it to detonate exactly at arrival. Having completed their plans, they will begin to set their diabolic plot in motion. The super-nuclear bomb will arrive just as planned and will detonate precisely as calculated.

It will be a fantastic success! Far more so than planned. It will set up and initiate the chain reaction which is required to ignite the earth's entire atmosphere. The whole of

is fully able to carry out His plan of keeping them and rearing them into maturity. But He is also fully able and willing to subject the errant ones to as severe a disciplining as the rebellion calls for. That is an expression of true love for growing children!

The first resurrection is made up of those who qualify for ruling positions with Jesus Christ in the New Jerusalem above (*Rev. 20:4-6*). The first resurrection places only those who have prepared themselves to take that much responsibility and succeed. This first resurrection is termed the better resurrection (*Heb. 11:35*). The adjectives “first” and “better” clearly indicate there are to be more resurrections. Also, *Revelation 20:5* shows that there are to be railings up after the Millennium is completed, with no restriction on timing or number of resurrections. *Revelation 20:13* speaks of another resurrection, but it is described only in the frame of being the last, because the Lake of Fire process immediately follows and there can be no resurrection back to earth in physical bodies after that process. When an oak tree is felled, the trunk and branches die. But the stump and root retain life and all essential information for rebuilding the tree as before. However, if the stump and roots are burned out, there is no way to rebuild that oak tree (*Isa. 6:13*). If the garments of the spirit die, they can be rebuilt from the key retained by the spirit, at the order of the Father. But if that key information is totally burned out, not even God can then reproduce those lost garments. *Revelation 21:1* clearly shows a new condition on the earth planet in which no physical body, such as we now have, could possibly survive.

The disciplining of the Lake of Fire is the most awesome portion of God’s plan for rebellious man and the rebels of Lucifer’s host. But because it is still far off in a distant day, there remains plenty of time for countless numbers of Adam’s race to be resurrected and come to repentance. They can still receive and possess an immortal and glorified seed which brings undying life to the soul. That, in turn, leads to a condition of undying life for the earthly physical body and qualification for a glorified body. By that time, all who have begun to come toward Jesus Christ (30-fold) will either have arrived at Him and in Him and He in them (immortal 60-fold), or they will have tired of the schooling, and will have returned to the world order of things in rebellion against God’s plan (no-fold dropouts). If the 30-fold continue toward Jesus, He will not cast them out, but when they give up coming toward Him, they turn back and lose their conditional listing in the Book of Life (*Jn. 6:37*). All whose names are *not* written in the Book of Life are cast into the process of consuming, which is the Lake of Fire.

Up to a certain point in coming toward Christ, a person’s name can have been entered into the Book of Life, but it can still be erased or blotted out (*Ex. 32:33, Rev. 3:5*). The maintaining of one’s name in the Book of Life is by his continuance in coming toward Jesus Christ (*Jn. 6:37*). But the person whose ears remain open, continuing to hear (and conform to) the Word, and who continues to rest in and rely upon God, even in measure, receives the free gift of eternal life for his *possession* throughout every moment from then on (*Jn. 5:24*). The free gift in possession permanently is obtained through a heart union with Jesus Christ (*Rom. 6:23, 10:9-10*). It is then that the immortal seed from the glorified body of Jesus Christ is permanently implanted in the heart of the one giving himself in contract (*Jn. 10:28*). However, prior to that union, if the continuing or coming toward stops in persistent neglect, the qualifying contingency for holding the promise of eternal life is given up and the agreement of convenience is broken by that one (*Heb. 10:39*). But the Lord is merciful. If the man does not persist in neglect so long that the Lord knows he will not turn back and the Lord therefore

drawn out over a far more extensive time period – into thousands of years in some cases. The register in the soul unfolds so that the encased spirit relives its earth life experiences. It sees and it understands Remorse is deeply etched into the mind of the spirit. Its own fire is quickened. The spirit is straightened out and the brattish tendencies are corrected. Its willfulness is killed. And eventually, its soul garment is dead. At long last, it again crosses the borderline out of Hades to return to the Father. But now it is a denuded spirit, fully humbled this time, repentant and meek and with an unquenchable, fiery zeal within to do the Father's will.

Lucifer and his host also have their portion in the Lake of Fire, although they have never acquired their own physical bodies and lived on earth. Yet through the countless eons they too have lived their lives, on the spirit plane. At the judgment, they are cast down to the soul plane where the Lake of Fire can be and is then activated. Their sojourn in "Gehenna" (the place of burning) will be much longer than for those whose souls were acquired through earth life, but their mental pain will be less. Still the objective is the same as that for rebellious mortals. God equalizes. Their sin-cored soulish vestments are to be fully destroyed and their minds are also to have the seared-in zeal for the Father's will. They too, finally emerge approximately on a par with their earth brother spirits in zeal for righteousness and fitness for service in the Father's vineyard. The *Almighty* is unwilling to lose any!

In the baptism with fire, the physical bodies of the unsaved are instantly and totally destroyed and their spirits with soul bodies come before the One on the Great White Throne. Before Him, the pulls of earthly carnality and the thoughts from the minds of men can find no place and they dissipate. Then several books of record are opened. There is one book in which every spoken word is audio-visually recorded (*Mal. 3:16, Matt. 12:36*). There is another in which every deed is recorded (*Rev. 20:12-13*). There is a third in which the every unspoken thought and emotion is also recorded; there must be, for completeness, for our thoughts are also to be judged (*Matt. 5:28-29, 7:1*). Then there is the other book, which is the Book of Life.

: 13-15 All who have experienced death of the physical body are to be resurrected and receive again the physical body (glorified, or immortal earthly, or mortal) and soul to make up a complete man. There are those that play a positive part in resurrection and those who play a negative part (*Jn. 5:28-29*). Logically, the saved Christians experience resurrection before the unsaved. Beginning with the close of the Great Tribulation of our present age, the 100-fold *overcomers*, having died in Christ, make up the first resurrection to earth and are then translated to rule and reign from heaven. Later, some time after the Millennium Kingdom has been fully established (after the 1000 years), others of the saved are resurrected to finish necessary preparation on earth to be ready for translation to the Heavenly realm. In the meantime, a diminishing number of saved persons are added to the waiting place in Paradise, because the Millennium brings the gospel of immortal life in physical bodies on earth. Only those who persist in rebellion or holding back die physical deaths from that time on.

But the rebellious, as they die, add to the number waiting in Hades where the unsaved soul also slowly disintegrates and dies a first death (see notes on *Rev. 2:11*). Thus, many are added to this realm of Hades during the years when Satan is again loosed and goes out to deceive the nations. When the soul has died in the realm of Hades, the spirit, denuded of both body and soul (completely naked), returns to God

The Kingdom of Heaven

REVELATION 19

All through these studies, the primary exhortation in the Word has been “prepare yourself.” Repeatedly, descriptions have been given of the parts to be played by groups of people in varying stages of preparation at the outset of and during the time of trial developing for all the world. Each *chapter*, from **10** through **19**, covers a different aspect of the 3 ½ year period described by the Lord as the Great Tribulation, for those not fully prepared. *Chapter 19* brings another shift in scene and viewpoint. The scene is in heaven and the view covers events which begin with the blowing of the seventh Trumpet. At the time for the initial blowing of the seventh Trumpet (*Rev. 10:2,7*), the Mighty Angel, Jesus Christ, is seen setting His right foot in judgment on the sea, the kingdom of the beast who rises from the “sea” (*Rev. 13:1*), and His left foot is set in judgment on the land, the kingdom of the beast who rises out of the “land” (*Rev. 13:11*). He calls out for His chosen and prepared ones and they answer as seven Thunders (*Rev. 10:3, 14:2*). As the seventh Trumpet begins to blow, the victory of the Body that fully belongs to Him begins to be evident (*Rev. 12:10*).

:1-3 The throwing down of “Babylon” (the great harlot Jezebel, the world system ruled by Satan) is actually begun at the initiation of the Great Tribulation, and there is much rejoicing in Heaven (*Rev. 12:10-12, 14:1-8*). After a long period of exceeding mercy, the great trial has been held, the arguments presented and weighed; and righteous judgment is given on the conduct of the great harlot who has adulterated the plan in the Word of Christ. The sentence on her religious, political and commercial-financial systems is complete destruction. And the “smoke” of remembrance of that utter destruction will be recalled in memory forever.

:4-5 A worship of praise is enjoined by the leaders of worship in Heaven, and then an invitation issues from the Throne for all who revere God to praise Him.

:6 The response is as mighty as that of the boom of great pounding waves of water and of terrific thunder. This same response was described twice before (*Rev. 10:3, 14:2*) in answer to Jesus Christ’s summons to all who are alert and who have prepared themselves for that call. Earlier, John was given the title of “Son of Thunder.” He is a type of the end-time Church, the one whom Jesus especially loved and into whose tender care the woman (Mary) was committed. Mary, meaning bitterness, is associated with the unprepared church.

THE MARRIAGE

:7 It is at the initial sounding of the seventh Trumpet that the marriage of the Lamb has come at last and the joy and exaltation are unparalleled. Because those

illustrate that those entering the heavenly Kingdom will be given posts of rulership – to become rulers over many things, such as authority over 10 cities (*Matt. 25:21, Lk. 19:17*).

Though the majority of Christians in the world are yet babes and children in their spiritual progress and growth, many individuals have begun an entrance into spiritual adolescence. Adolescence is good and needful in maturing, but it is also a problem time – the chief difficulty seeming to be spiritual pride which shows up in many ways. For example, it is so often true that when “young” Christians begin to grow and partake of the greater fruits and blessings of the Kingdom, they get “heady” on the “new wine” of truth discovered, and havoc is the result. The type was pictured when Noah planted a new vineyard (symbolizing the kingdom), but when he drank its fermenting fruits, he became “heady,” exposed his nakedness, and engendered a curse on some others (*Gen. 9:20-25*). How hard it is to teach and correct those who are exhilarated in the fling of adolescent pride. But there are also Christians who have begun to enter into a measure of maturity, being shaped as pillars in the Temple of God (the Church) through overcoming (*Rev. 3:12*). Only such overcomers will sit with Christ on His Throne and be given ruling (shepherding) power (*Rev. 2:26-27, 3:21, 12:5*).

Those who are to rule and reign with Christ are to become kings and priests (*Rev. 5:10*) and joint-heirs with Christ (*Rom. 8:17*). In the Old Testament eras, kings and priests had to be anointed for their offices, and holy anointing oil was poured on their heads to sanctify (separate) them to the Lord’s purposes (*Ex. 29:7,21; Lev. 8:12,30; I Sam. 10:1, 16:13; II Sam. 2:4*). In fact, they had two such anointings with oil. The anointing were a type of the event of receiving the immortal seed of Christ (*I Pet. 1:23*) and then the event of Holy Spirit Baptism (*Acts 1:5-8*). Holy Spirit Baptism is pictured as being poured out, coming upon, falling upon those who receive it (*Ps. 133; Acts 2:17-18, 8:15-17, 10:44-45, 11:15, 19:6*). However, it was made clear in the Old Testament types that the Lord requires a growing and maturing through testing in the anointing, to result in consistent conformance and faithfulness (*I Sam. 2:27-35, 13:13-14, 15:22-23; Acts 13:21-22*), or those anointed could lose out on their high calling.

Those placed with the Lamb are the called and chosen and faithful (*Rev. 17:14*). Those give diligence to make their calling and election sure (*II Pet. 1:10*). Note again that initial preservation or salvation is a free gift (*Rom. 6:23*), which is different from the prize of the high calling of God (*Phil. 3:14*). For that prize, one must run to win, in order to succeed in being crowned (*I Cor. 9:24-27, Heb. 12:1*). Men and women are called into His Kingdom and glory (*I Thess. 2:12*), called to the attainment of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ (*II Thess. 2:14*), so that they might be elected for bodily change into the likeness of His glorified body (*Phil. 3:21*). It will be through such glorified bodies of saints ruling with Christ that He will be able to bring all things into subjection to Himself (*I Cor. 15:25*). “Many are called, but few are chosen” (*Matt. 22:14*). It is truly a high, holy, heavenly and restricted calling into Christ’s ruling Body and Kingdom (*Phil. 3:14, II Tim. 1:9, Heb. 3:1*).

In Bible times, a son became joint-heir in the inheritance of his father only after he had been tutored and disciplined, and had grown to sufficient maturity to be proven as an adult son. “Placing” is a more accurate translation than “adoption.” Placement has to do with already “born again” children in the family of God who subsequently reach a level of overcoming and spiritual maturity that makes them ready to be placed as sons

Time is of the essence. Christ's purpose is to bring many sons to glory (**Heb. 2:10**) so that He might be the firstborn among many brethren (**Rom. 8:29**). Therefore, those who have not made themselves ready when the Lord comes for His Bride at the beginning of The Tribulation, will be given sufficient time to do so. If they be diligent during the Tribulation period, to prove themselves so that the Lord might know them (**Deut. 8:2**), then they can be received into His Kingdom glory at the close of the Tribulation. That is the most important reason for there being Great Tribulation such as the world has never experienced – to provide opportunity and motivation for those who have not made themselves ready beforehand.

It is our contemporary generation which will experience the time of sonship placement. Although all Christians are children of God and heirs through Christ (**Gal. 4:7**), heirs who are *potentially* lords of all, each must wait until the time appointed by the Father for His placement as a son in His full inheritance (**Gal. 4:1-3**). Even dispensationally, it is a matter of time. Those under the Law were kept in the bondage or limitation of elemental, rudimentary precepts. They were in early childhood and thereby in enforced servitude to the Father, as servants or slaves. Under the law, they remained in childhood, because the Law was weak *through the "flesh"* to bring into maturity (**Rom. 8:3**). The Law working alone in the "flesh" made nothing mature, but the later offer of a better hope, understanding and new contract in the Spirit brought maturity within reach (**Heb. 7:19,11, 9:9, 10:1, 9:11-12**). What was true dispensationally is also true personally. From God's perspective, all have been redeemed or purchased from the limitations and weaknesses of the Law operating through the "flesh" (**Gal. 4:5**). But each begins his Christian experience as a babe in Christ. And each must grow up, if he is to experience placement in *full* sonship (**I Pet. 2:2, Eph. 4:14-15**).

"Born again" Christians are initially children, but not slaves under compulsory servitude of the Law. Because we have been bought with a price and belong to Christ, we can voluntarily submit to Him and His desire for our cooperation in the spirit of the principles of the Law and become His servants or love-slaves. Then we become constantly available to be tutored and disciplined by Him through the Spirit (**Ex. 21:1-6, Deut. 15:12-17**). Although freed by our Lord, we can love our Master, not desiring to go free, and "have our ears bored through with an awl" (that we might *hear* His voice) and serve Him always – being His children, but also as voluntary bond slaves (**Rev. 22:3, 21:7**). From that we are then to emerge as adult sons, no longer needing someone to rule over us.

The Lord Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, is now making ready a Bride, to be received by Him when He comes (**Matt. 25:10, Rev. 19:7, Acts. 15:14**). But how is He making His Bride ready? The Lord conforms all things to basic patterns and the Book of His patterns brings them to view. When Jesus came to earth about 2,000 years ago, it was to be presented to natural Israel as a Bridegroom to His Bride. Israel should have been made ready for her Husband, Yahweh, for the marriage contract had been arranged many years before at Mt. Sinai. However, since Yahweh was Spirit and not flesh, it was impossible for Him to factually live with Israel in His person and fully consummate the marriage relationship. For this purpose, the invisible God had to incarnate Himself in a garment of flesh so He could be joined to a people of flesh. In **Isaiah 61:10**, He spoke of His garments of salvation (His physical body) and His robe of righteousness (His sinless inner or soul garment). As a Bridegroom, He decks Himself as a priest (Literal translation). Therefore, He was clothed in human flesh to fulfill the ministry of the

espoused to Him, but they must mature in and maintain the “virgin” estate of 100-fold fruitedness in the soul. Only the pure in heart shall see God. They should continue to refuse concourse with the world system and its defilements, remaining true and faithful to Christ alone, if they are to be factually presented to the Bridegroom as His heavenly Bride (*II Cor. 11:2-3*).

It was at the betrothal that the vows were exchanged and the dowry and gifts given. It was then that the couple were legally husband and wife (*Deut. 22:23-24, Matt. 1:18-20*). Yet the bridegroom usually did not take his bride to live with him immediately. There was a customary waiting period, an intervening time. Since the death and resurrection of Christ, Christians are joined with Him in contract relationship or betrothal at 60-fold regeneration and are spiritually members of His Body (*Eph. 5:30*). Those remaining faithful make up the Church of regenerated ones now joined spiritually to Christ in a husband and wife contract relationship (*I Cor. 6:17, Eph. 5:32*). However, a distinction must be made between an organized Church functioning today in a self-proclaimed spiritual marriage contract arrangement and those elected by Christ for the literal joining together with the Bridegroom. Those joining will be a select and petite group taken *out* of the present Church organism on earth. Those selected will have proven themselves “virgins” to Christ, and are both wise and undefiled (*Matt. 25:4, Rev. 14:4*).

When Jesus Christ died on the Cross, the very act which sealed the marriage contract with the spiritual replacement for Israel also resulted in the Bridegroom being taken away from the Church. When His physical body was resurrected from the dead and raised to glorified life, it became impossible for the Church in this dispensation to factually dwell with Him on His plane (*Matt. 9:15*). Robbed of His personal and immediate presence, the faithful of the Church have instead received His spiritual presence, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit (*Jn. 14:15-18*). It is the potential of this spiritual marriage relationship which has continued through the present dispensation. But soon a change is to take place, for an intimate Body is to come into being, that of factual “called out” ones to join Him where He is (*Matt. 24:28*). Then the very small portion of the Church which is *ready* is to be factually and literally called out of this world to become the heavenly Bride of Christ. Subsequently, the repentant ones in the Church remaining on earth will continue to function by the spiritual ministry of the Holy Spirit throughout the Tribulation period. At the end of that time, those remaining truly sanctified (separated) to the Lord, who have made their calling and election sure, will also be literally called out of the world – along with those of the dead *in Christ*. (All must meet the same readiness requirements.) And these too will then join the Lord and His Bride to function in His household and government (*I Thess. 4:16-17*).

In all this time, those in the “widow” Church (her Husband gone), who are willing to bear the reproach and remain faithful to the absent Husband will be maintained and sustained by His grace (*Isa. 54:4, I Ki. 17:14*). The few specially loving Him actively wait for Him to come and take them to dwell with Him. This little Bride company gives to her Lord all that she has and is, and continues steadfast in prayer and in the seeking of His face, knowing He will avenge her completely from her adversary the devil, when He comes for those He will elect (*Lk. 21:1-4, 18:1-8*).

The balance of the organized Church is in great contrast. This portion is pictured as the false Church. She has not remained faithful. She has entered into compromise with

also the Bride company of those who walk with Him and please Him shall be translated first, at the beginning of the Tribulation. But God does not play favorites. The Bride shall be followed by a great multitude which shall come out of the Tribulation at its close, but they also must be clothed in white, having cleansed and kept their inner garments bright during the Great Tribulation. This is the purpose of that “Valley of Decision” period, the compelling of **Luke 14:23**. These later ones stand *before* the Throne and before the Lamb, although not *with* Him, as do the ones in the Bride company (**Rev. 14:1, 7:9,14**).

There are some distinctions between sin and uncleanness; both need to be dealt with. (Sin is here used as a general term.) All sin is uncleanness, but all uncleanness is not sin as such. We can experience uncleanness in our mental-emotional being without actually committing any sin. Nevertheless, such uncleanness hinders the work of the Lord and can keep anyone from fully entering into the covenant blessings, joys and powers that the Lord has prepared for His own (**Ps. 66:18**). For example, you may experience thoughts and feelings of resentment over what another does or says – or is suspected of doing or saying. Such thoughts and emotions churning within are not from the Lord, but from the enemy – taking away your peace. But think how much false accusation, backbiting, unrighteous attack and outright physical torture Jesus Christ accepted while living for you and me – without bitter resentment and responding in kind, but with thanks to His Father. As He overcame, so He calls each of us to overcome, ridding ourselves of all such errors. It is by His grace that you and I are also preserved after “new birth.” A fountain has been opened for sin *and* uncleanness (**Zech. 13:1**). This fountain was opened with His vicarious sacrifice on Calvary. Both blood and water came from His side, the blood to atone for sin and the water (symbolizing the Word) to purge out the uncleanness (**Jn. 19:34, 15:3; Eph. 5:26**). All sin or moral uncleanness has to be removed by the process of repentance, confession, and receiving of forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Christ (**Lev. 5:5-6, Num. 5:6-8, I Jn. 1:6-10**).

But there was also a ceremonial uncleanness which defiled and made impure, and only the clean were fit to approach the Holy God and His sanctuary (**Lev. 7:19-22, 22:3; Num. 9:6-7, 18:11**). This uncleanness is removed by the continuing application of the washing by or in the Word (**Lev. 11:36,40, 15:5-13; Eph. 5:26**). The two main ways of contacting uncleanness are shown by eating and by touching. “Eating” is a type of fellowship and intimate association, and it shows that God’s people are to have no such fellowship with the unfruitful works or influences of darkness and take none of it within themselves (**Eph. 5:11**). “Touching that which is dead” pictures the contact with the world order and that which is dead (ineffective in furthering the Lord’s plan for well-being), perhaps accompanied by slight participation (**Eph. 2:1-5**). Therefore, come out, come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch not the unclean thing and He will receive you and be a Father to you and you will be His child (**Isa. 52:11, 43:6; Jer. 31:1; II Cor. 6:14-18**). Having these promises, be quick to cleanse yourself from all defilement, bringing holiness or consecration (separation) to its completeness or maturity in the fear of God (**II Cor. 7:1**).

In the experience of the day, Christians contact uncleanness in the world order. What is seen and heard wipes off on them and brings a certain amount of defilement into the thinking and feeling. Therefore, the Lord needs to wash our feet and cleanse away the defilement of the world (**Jn. 13:6-8**). It is the washing with the Word. Through mutual fellowship and ministry in the Word, we can also wash one another’s feet (**Jn. 13:14**).

with the Lord, disqualifies one from being His disciple (*Lk. 14:26-33*). It has to be total surrender and peace with God, lest there be a resisting and fighting against God's calling and purpose. Training and disciplining in utterly new habits of living can be the only way of approach (*I Jn. 2:1*).

A price must be paid, but glory beyond compare waits for those who are willing to lay down their lives completely on the Altar as a living sacrifice to God. The Lord cannot use vessels in these last days who are even a little filled with their own desires and plans and selfish ways, nor will He pour anything into the vessel that is not received by an act of definite faith and initiative in reaching out in trust and loyalty. There should be a reaching out for and a receiving with thanksgiving of all that is made available in the Word, for nothing can be appropriated without an awareness of it. Let us come to see how important it is to search out the Lord in His Word and believe what He has placed there. Those who would prepare themselves should begin to realize what is their right and their inheritance in Christ, to realize that God's people are living far below their covenanted rights, to reach out for all that is ready and available and to possess it.

Jesus' high priestly prayer (*Jn. 17:11,23*) petitions the Holy Father to keep through His own "name" those whom He had given (a gift from His God) to the man, Jesus Christ, that they may be one as Christ and God are. . .that they may be made *perfect in one*. . . . Those of the Body of Christians who now prepare to become an overcoming Body, are to be made perfect in one to manifest His glory to the world in this end-time. They who are also made ready to be joined to Him in His own heavenly Kingdom, are His by gift of the Father. They are His inheritance (*Eph. 1:18*) and His fullness (*Eph. 1:23*), His Bride and then others later for His household (*Eph. 5:25-32, Eph. 2:2-19*), to share His calling (*Eph. 1:18, Heb. 3:1*) and to be with Him forever. All these are to be especially kept (sealed) through the Christ's "name."

The early overcomers (the Bride) are given the Morning Star as a result of the betrothal contract (*Rev. 2:28*). The Morning Star is the "early white shiner," white and shining like Jesus Christ, though initially a tiny shiner within the believer. He then sees a pure light, which is on the increase against a backdrop of earth's darkness. It is an earlier light than most have roused themselves to experience. It is also the wise virgin's lighted lamp from Holy Spirit Baptism which continues to shine. They are the 144,000 group (*Rev. 14:1*), the wise virgins (*Matt. 25:10*) received into the marriage at the midnight hour and the queen in gold of Ophir to be brought to the King in raiment of needlework (*Ps. 45:9-14*).

The wife has *made herself* ready. Christ will first return to a prepared people, those who have made themselves ready (*Matt. 24:44*). Readiness requires much more than professing to be a Christian, or even knowing that one is "saved." The Lord has requirements of those whom He will call into His presence to share His intimate fellowship and glory in His own Kingdom realm. They that are ready go in with Christ, the Bridegroom, to the marriage, and then the door is shut (*Matt. 25:10*).

:8 The Bride company is made up exclusively of 100-fold Christians, those fully prepared, sealed with the long promised Holy Spirit and with the empowering name of Christ. They are then to be sealed with the name of God, with the name of the New Jerusalem and the new name of Jesus (*Rev. 3:12*). She is *permitted* to be clothed in fine linen, dazzling and pure. The fine linen represents the sentence or award (literally) for her righteous acts (righteousnesses), the just and righteous living in conformance to the

tives. Natural daylight is brought on by the turning of the earth and dawning of light on the viewer's area long before the sun appears over the horizon. Also the gradual unfolding of the Day of the Lord can be seen in the pattern of the new 24 hour day as it was reckoned by the people of Israel when Jesus was there among them. Their new day began at sunset and progressed through the four "watches" of 3 hours each during the first 12 hours, 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. From this latter perspective, we already are in the second "watch" of the Day of the Lord.

The prophecy in *Zephaniah 1:7* refers to the *presence* of the Lord and the sacrifice which He has prepared, to which His guests are "bid, set apart, sanctified or prepared" (Literal translation). There is a two-fold setting apart, for there is a two-fold sacrifice or feast that is being prepared, the marriage supper of the Lamb (*Rev. 19:9*) and the supper of the great God (*Rev. 19:17*). One is the result of His grace extended, the other is the result of His wrath poured out. One is for the redeemed and glorified, the other is for the refuse of the earth. One is to prepare for the inauguration of a righteous rule on earth, the other is to sweep away man's refuge of lies. The guests for each are now being set apart.

But notice that it is the Holy Spirit *and the Bride* who issue the invitation to come (*Rev. 22:17*), an invitation to all who thirst for the freely given water of Life. In *Revelation 19:9* we read, "Blessed are those called *and* invited to the wedding supper." But it is the Spirit *and* the Bride company who do the inviting. A Bride is not called or invited to her own wedding supper; *she* does the inviting. Therefore, by the time the invitation is fully issued, the Bride will already have joined her Lord in the heavenlies, in order that the Spirit *and* the Bride may say "come."

Since the Bride will have made herself ready first, she is to join her Husband at the beginning of the Tribulation just as the seventh Trumpet sounds its initial blast. Then she will be able to help prepare those who are to be the guests at the marriage supper to be served soon after the great host of saints are taken up to meet Christ at the close of The Tribulation. She will be able to do this helping, because each of the 144,000 Firstfruits Bride company will have the power to appear and minister to the saints on earth during the Tribulation period. It is at least during the beginning of that 3 1/2 years of Tribulation that the Bride company of Spirit-fortified saints will be busily engaged in issuing the call and the invitation to many to come and take of the water of Life freely. It is her desire and her Lord's purpose that her marriage supper be a bounteous occasion with many guests attending.

There is a difference between the marriage and the marriage supper. The supper is for the guests who are invited and who come after the Bride has been joined to her husband, although the feast is also a part of the marriage festivities. The Hebrew marriage began with the betrothal contract, bringing the "new name" (*Rev. 2:17* – the white pebble is initially the incorruptible seed from Jesus Christ bringing regeneration). On the wedding night, the wedding procession included first the Bride company and then, about midnight, the Groom. Some time later, the Bride and the Groom were joined together in the room of the Groom's mother, and there were no subsequent activities to complete the union; the joining in marriage had taken place. Then the marriage supper for all the guests was celebrated.

Christ's Bride is the first made ready, a Firstfruits to the Lamb, the firstborn out of the earthly Church (*Rev. 14:4, 12:5*). These mature sons, glorified and caught up, will be

bringing one to the 60-fold estate). Then righteousness like Christ's must be fully integrated into the fabric of the soul, being woven by the working of the Word *and* the Spirit. Finally, the black and defiling threads in the fabric must be "burned" out, leaving it a beautiful garment (character). This result is possible only through the Spirit-sanctified estate of the 100-fold who have obtained the extra oil in their vessels.

In yet another word picture, Jesus said, "***Keep your loins girded and your lamps burning and be yourselves like men who are waiting for their master (Lord) to return home from the wedding, so when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately***" (***Lk. 12:35-36***). This is a further indication that those who are left, when the Firstfruits Bride company is taken, will have the opportunity to be made ready. The wise virgins (the Bride company) go in to the marriage when the Bridegroom comes at the midnight hour (***Matt. 25:10***) so the ones who must wait for their Lord to return from the wedding (***Lk. 12:36***) are those left behind (the foolish virgins).

But when does He return, and what is the meaning of His knocking? When the foolish virgins knocked, they were refused entrance (***Matt. 25:10-12***). But then the friend knocked *after* the children were inside and received the 3 loaves, entering the 100-fold estate through the Holy Spirit Baptism. So it is clear that though the foolish virgins are left behind, they are able to go and "*buy oil*" (the working of the Holy Spirit) for their lamps and their vessels (***Matt. 25:9***).

The statement "Keep your loins girded and your lamps burning" also indicates the expectation that the "oil" will be secured (Holy Spirit Baptism). Then they are to wait and prepare in expectancy for the Lord to return from the wedding. Waiting on the Lord is not passively sitting, doing nothing. It includes searching out and aggressively accepting all He offers in the Record of His plan; it involves knowing our capacity must be increased before we can see and receive all that is promised. We are then to be patiently practicing what is understood, actively seeking to become qualified, "waiting" for that.

Shortly after the Bride company has been received by the Lord in the heavenly realm, both the Lord Himself and those glorified saints will begin to appear to "virgins" left behind. The pattern was set by Jesus after His resurrection. He first ascended to the Father and then returned, appearing to the Disciples and being seen by them during a period of 40 days (***Jn. 20:17,19; Acts 1:3***). In the same pattern, after the Firstfruits Bride company is translated and ascends to meet the Lord in the upper stratosphere, within a few days they will return from the wedding preparations to fulfill their duties throughout approximately 40 days or perhaps months of the Tribulation period (***Mal. 3:17-18***). Those left behind (***Lk. 12:36***) are to actively "wait" for the *appearance* of the Lord and the glorified saints, for they will be able to materialize their bodies in their presence. The visitations will be the fulfillment of the Lord (or members of His Bride company) coming and "knocking," and the expectant waiting ones opening to Him immediately. These visits also fulfill ***Revelation 3:20*** in which Jesus is pictured "knocking" during the closing years of the Laodicean era. During at least the first 40 days of the period of Great Tribulation, the Lord and the glorified 144,000 group, His Bride, will continue to appear to those who are waiting, expecting and "opening their door." In Scripture, 40 is the number of testing and proving. The from time to time appearance of Jesus Christ and the 144,000 glorified saints will initiate a revealing and testing that will extend through the entire 42 months of Great Tribulation (*His knocking at the door*).

comes as a thief (**Rev. 3:3, 16:15**). A thief (to the unprepared) does not announce his coming when he breaks in to take something, and the evidence of his visit is that something is missing. He comes at an hour which such a one does not anticipate (**Lk. 12:40**). He comes to take away His Jewels (**Mal. 3:17**), the 144,000 group, the wise virgins, the redeemed among men who are the Firstfruits for God and the Lamb (**Rev. 14:4**). These will be translated at the beginning of the Great Tribulation, for they are accounted worthy to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man (**Lk. 21:36, Rev. 3:10**).

The Lord said, "I will spare them as a man spares his own son *who serves him*" (**Mal. 3:17**). And since they have a ministry to fulfill on earth during the Tribulation, the Lord further says, "Then shall you *return* and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him who serves God and him who does not serve Him" (**Mal. 3:18**). But if the householder had known at what watch the thief was coming, he *would* have been awake and watching and would not have permitted his house to be broken through (**Lk. 12:39**). The house is the Church, the household of God (**Eph. 2:19**). The price exacted from the careless household that is not awake, watching and prepared is the breaking or digging through to take the wise virgins. And those who are then prepared go in with Him to the marriage (**Matt. 25:10**). This is in harmony with **Revelation 19:7**, "Let us rejoice and exalt and give Him glory and honor, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His wife has prepared herself."

There is then a further coming of the Lord, at the cockcrow which ends the third watch, 12 to 3 a.m. It must have been during this watch that Peter denied his Lord (**Mk. 14:30,66-72**); therefore, the cockcrow is prophetically connected with Peter's denial. This connection shows that those not taken at the midnight hour and left to go through the Tribulation period, have at some time and in some measure denied their Lord. The Tribulation is used, therefore, to test and prove them that the Lord might know them, that they might be made ready to be called to the marriage supper.

When the Lord comes at the cockcrow, it is for all who have been made ready during the Tribulation, both the foolish virgins and those who might be called Tribulation saints, those who have come to know the Lord during the Tribulation period, and have had sufficient time to develop from a "blade" to a "full-grain-in-the-ear" Christian (**Mk. 4:28**). As the physical crowing of the cock awakens those who are still sleeping, when Jesus comes at cockcrow, all who have died in Christ (fully prepared) will be raised. Then, immediately, all the prepared saints (*in Christ*) who are alive shall be caught up along with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (**I Thess. 4:13-17**). The coming of Jesus at the cockcrow immediately concludes the Tribulation period, for it is "in those days, after that Tribulation" that "He shall send out the angels and will gather together His elect" (**Mk. 13:24,27**). On that morning of the Day of Trumpets, just before the seven Bowls of Wrath are poured out on the earth (**Rev. 16**), the elected saints are united with the Lord in the air. Near noontime Jerusalem time, on Tishri 1, they begin their ascent toward the Temple in heaven.

The event is also pictured in **Revelation 14:14-16** by one like the Son of man, having a golden crown upon His head, and in His hand a sharp sickle. With this sickle He reaps the harvest of the earth and gathers the ripened grain into the "granary" of His heavenly Kingdom. Then will the righteous shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father (**Matt. 13:30,43**). After their gathering to the Lord, these glorified saints

know how to watch, we must understand the different phases of His coming, as portrayed by the Lord, and then watch during each phase (**Mk. 13:35**). By now He has already come “at even,” the first phase of the night for the World. We are now watching for and participating in a greater revelation of Himself, as He comes in the power of His Spirit to give light and understanding of His end-time purposes to His Church. He is now visiting His temple to quicken, cleanse, recondition and prepare for a mighty, world-wide outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the 2nd Pentecost, such as the world has never seen. A people must be made ready to be used extensively during the Tribulation, a people who will be an instrument in the hand of the Lord for reaping a great harvest throughout the earth. Are you “watching” daily that He might give you greater light and understanding? Are you moving *with* His Spirit into His end-time purposes? His Spirit guides only where the wholeness of God’s Word is *studied*!

Are you also watching for His coming “at midnight?” Is the lamp of His Word burning brightly, and is there extra oil in your vessel that you might have the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him (**Eph. 1:17**)? Is the oil of His Spirit in sufficient supply that the love of God may be shed abroad in your heart (**Rom. 5:5**)? Do you know the love of Christ which far surpasses mere knowledge, that you might be filled with the fullness of God (**Eph. 3:19**)? There is much more to having extra oil than claiming to have had an experience. The 144,000 of the Bride company received by the Bridegroom at the midnight hour are those who follow the Lamb wherever He goes (**Rev. 14:4**). Are you hearing His voice and following Him in everything?

Whether you qualify for the Bride company or not, it is important to be as ready as possible to receive the Mighty Outpouring of the Spirit which is to follow 56 days after the Bride is translated. That outpouring will be upon a *prepared* people who will then be used intensively by the Lord during the harvest days of The Tribulation period. If you are not taken as a part of the Bride company, quickly “watch” for the secret appearance of the Lord or one of His glorified saints, even as the Lord appeared to His Disciples in the upper room after His resurrection (**Lk. 24:36**), or to the two Disciples on the road to Emmaus (**Lk. 24:13-31**), or to others in that day. Keep your loins girded (virgin) and your lamp burning and be like men who are waiting for their Lord to return from the wedding preparations so that when He comes and knocks you may open to Him immediately (**Lk. 12:35-36**). Since those who are glorified do not need material doors to be opened to them (**Jn. 20:19**), the knocking and opening must be a spiritual readiness to receive by those who are “watching.”

After the mighty and glorious ministry of the saints on earth during the Tribulation (His knocking on the door for admission), there should be a readiness and watching for Jesus’ coming “at the cockcrowing.” That is when all those truly sanctified will be changed and caught up to be with the Lord (**I Cor. 15:51-54, I Thess. 4:13-17**). Then after the marriage supper in Heaven, the Lord will return with all His saints to set up the earthly Kingdom in the pattern of His heavenly Kingdom; this is His coming “in the morning” in power and great glory.

So now is the time to hear the voice of your God and prepare. The Spirit is saying, “Come,” for the hour is late and His people are woefully unprepared for what is soon to unfold. There is yet much to enter into, even before the Bride is received. Now it is the Spirit who says “Come” in this new day of the Lord’s visitation and unveiling to His people, but in time it will be the Spirit *and* the Bride who will say “Come” (**Rev. 22:17**).

for service in His Kingdom. The plan calls for service during physical life on earth, but it also calls for service in the spirit realm. There is no idleness and boredom in the spirit realms of God. One from that realm was assigned to help John. When the much impressed John responded in worship, the angel introduced himself and further instructed John. This messenger informed him that he was one of John's brethren. In other words, he had previously lived as a Jew. He reaffirmed his identity by stating he had been John's fellow servant – he had been a mortal who had received the Testimony of Jesus. We worship God because He is our Savior and Keeper, not as a slave to mankind. Since John was about to worship the messenger as God, the angel produced his own identity. He quickly stated he was or came from among the prophet-servants, as was John himself, out from among the Jews who had received the Testimony of Jesus and had subsequently died. Prophecy, by definition, is the Word of God concerning past, present and future. The substance of the truth revealed by Jesus Christ, the Word (*Jn. 1:1,14*) is the spirit of *all* true prophecy (the life in it, the reality behind it). It is His Spirit who will *guide* into all truth (*Jn. 16:13*) and it is His Spirit who initiates all true prophecy (*II Pet. 1:21*).

: 11 It was the Lion of the tribe of Judah who prevailed to open the seven-sealed book (*Rev. 5:5*), and Jesus is King and Priest (*Heb. 5:5-6*). As King, He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, reigning *over* the Throne of David (*Isa. 9:6-7, Lk. 1:31-33*). As Priest and Redeemer, He is the Lamb. But as the present dispensation draws to a close, it is the King ministry that begins to prevail, as Jesus takes over all that is rightfully His. He begins to exert the power and authority which was given to Him after His resurrection (*Matt. 28:18*) so as to completely eliminate Satan's usurped control of man, and exercise His own right as King. Likewise, the perfected Body of Christians must have learned submission, humbleness, sacrifice and willingness to hear and follow the voice of the Shepherd (*Jn. 10:27*), or its members will never enter the King ministry of joint-rulership with Christ. The horse is the symbol of power to war and, as King, Jesus comes against the oppressor, having passed righteous judgment. Remember, He came 1900 years ago on a humble beast of burden, a donkey. He did not come then as a conquering King, but to be supported in setting up an earth Kingdom. He came to that nation which had never before given itself to be ridden or guided by the King.

: 12 With penetrating discernment He separates for destruction all that is not established by God. He is the King of kings and, in place of the redemptive name (nature) of Jesus or Yeshua (Yahweh is Savior), He has the power-essence of His new "name" (nature) for ruling and reigning (*Rev. 3:12, 22:4*).

: 13 The robe of Jesus is made red with the blood of His enemies (*Isa. 63:1-4*) as He treads the winepress of His wrath (*Rev. 14:20, 19:15*).

: 14-16 His heavenly army, the glorified saints who have helped to push Satan and his forces to the boundaries of his realm, comes with Jesus to utterly dispossess them. The sharp Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God (*Eph. 6:17*) by which the nations are judged in this age, and the rod of iron is the Word of God administered by the glorified saints by whom the Millennium nations will be ruled. The Law is returned to discipline those who understand, but would choose to selfishly violate it. It is Jesus Who treads the winepress of the fury of God Almighty, carrying out the judgment sentence and exercising His responsibility as King of kings and Lord of lords.

: 17-19 The Lord Jesus is to be revealed in flaming fire, taking vengeance on

the 144,000 Firstfruits group, we can prove with absolute certainty the precise termination points for this era. From the day the Firstfruits are taken up, the 10th day of Nisan, there are to be exactly 1260 solar days until the then prepared "foolish virgins" follow. That concludes our Christian era. The pronouncement "It is done" also means that at that time there is no more "salvation" through the Lamb of God for anyone of this generation who has not already turned to Him (*Zeph. 2:1-3, Prov. 1:27-29*). His objective in this age will have then been achieved and He is then no longer the Lamb. At that moment He instantly blazes forth in the full stature of the Son of God and the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Then He is crowned Monarch of all creation. Two weeks beyond the second calling out, the "times of the Gentiles" are closed. The touching of His feet on earth marks that precise moment.

triumph of this age when all that has previously been accomplished comes to its full. When He descends to earth again, accompanied by the hosts of the redeemed (*Zech. 14:5*), it will be during the death agonies of the unrepentant who are engulfed in worldwide nuclear warfare. And when His feet touch down, the Mount of Olives will be split to portray the double manifestation of Christ's Kingdom – earthly and heavenly.

One will operate in the invisible realms above, the other in the visible realms on earth. The Heavenly Kingdom, which is Christ's own Kingdom realm, will rule over the earthly, but those in the earthly Kingdom will have the opportunity at a future time to enter the Heavenly Kingdom, if they will fulfill all that the Lord has required on earth. The Kingdom is split in that day so that each portion might fulfill a part of God's plan. Much later, after fulfilling His purpose, the two will be merged into one when the plan of the ages is complete and the Lord moves to inaugurate a new order. When thousands of years from now, that new order is inaugurated, there will be a new heaven and a new earth (same planet, but different conditions on it) and the visible will be merged with that which is invisible.

The Millennium now at hand is the 1000 year "day of rest," the sabbath of rest after 6000 years (six days) of labor. Man will then have rest from all the oppressions of the enemy, for Satan is to be bound and he shall not deceive the nations any more for 1000 years. There will be peace and righteousness everywhere; people will enjoy the fruit of their labors; and there shall be an abundance of joy in the earth (*Isa. 65:18-22*). These conditions will prevail, not just because Satan will be bound, but because God will spread a canopy of righteousness over the earth by means of the righteous rulers who will be in charge of all things. All things will be governed through that Body which is to be raised up to God and glorified by Him.

The glorified members of that Body will no longer be of the earth or be bound by the things of the earth, nor will they be tempted in any way by the desires and concerns of those who are yet in flesh. They will have completely overcome all things and they will have been conformed to the image of the man Jesus Christ (*Phil. 3:20-21*). They will be ruling and reigning with Him and they will carry out His commandments in everything. Therefore, they will be able to govern all the affairs of the earth in righteousness. Since they will not be of the earth, they will not be influenced by the things of the earth. In complete victory, they will be living in the heavenly realms surrounding the earth, realms where Christ's light and glory are manifest. They will come to and go from that central Throne to be established in the heavenlies above the earth, receiving instruction and counsel and then carrying out their responsibilities on the earth. Thus will the canopy of righteous judgment and justice be spread over the earth.

"Your eyes shall constantly behold your teachers" (*Isa. 30:19-21*) refers to this period when the glorified saints of the Body of Christ will appear from time to time to those on earth to teach the will of God for them. The glorified saints will be on duty to speak at times to those who need instruction and guidance: "This is the way; walk in it." Their voice shall be heard and those hearing will know that the Lord of glory is guiding them.

Many nations will come to Jerusalem to give recognition and honor to the central government on earth which will be established there (*Zech. 8:22, 14:16-17; Mic. 4:1-5; Jer. 3:17-18; Ps. 122:3-5*); their officials will come annually to receive teaching and guidance for their lands. Ambassadors of many nations will come to seek understand-

News which shall be preached in the Millennium will be the way into deathless physical life, and eventually the earth will become populated with those who know no death or disease or suffering of any kind.

All Christians are not translated into the heavenlies at the close of the Great Tribulation. Those not then prepared and ready to be taken are left behind to live on into the Millennium and beyond. Here, they will have opportunity to enter into immortality in human flesh, *if* they fulfill the requirements (no automatic attainment).

Those who shall dwell on the earth have only one portion of their birthright, that of eternal life (immortality). Those who dwell in the upper realms of the heavenly Kingdom and in glory shall be invested with the double portion of not only eternal life, but also heavenly glory. They shall also have the double power of living in the heavenly realms and manifesting in the earthly realm. Doubly blessed are they and double is their portion. This double portion is the inherent right of the First *born*, and it brings an abundant entrance into the eternal Kingdom of God. It is an inheritance among those who shall rule and reign as co-heirs of the heavenly realm. Those who inherit the double portion will sit in judgment upon the angels who have been ministering spirits and who shall continue to minister to the inheritors.

The Firstborn here are not that of the physical, but that of the spiritual, which is described as the Church of the Firstborn (**Heb. 12:23**). The Firstborn are those who shall first enter eternal life in the glories of the heavenly Kingdom, a realm much higher than the realm of immortals on earth. However, if immortals on earth are diligent and seek the Lord with the whole heart and obey His every word, then they too shall eventually come into the Heavenly Kingdom and inherit a double portion, though it will not be of the same glory as for those who have preceded them. The glory of the earthly is not the glory of the heavenly, and even in the heavenly glory, one “star” (person) differs from another in glory and all are not equal (**I Cor. 15:40-41**). There shall be many realms even in the heavenly, one realm being of greater glory than another.

The Lord is working within each disciple of Jesus Christ, but that disciple cannot be joined to Him, until the work is complete. Does man begin a work and then not finish it? Does man plan and then not accomplish and fulfill his plan? Do you think the Lord is less intelligent than man, that He will not complete what He has purposed and not finish what He has begun? It is written that the work He has begun He will perfect or complete, even for that day of His appearing when all who are ready shall be received by Him into His glory (**Phil. 1:6**).

The Lord works in ways that the human mind alone cannot fully comprehend – ways which are understood only by revelation of the Spirit. Therefore, do not try to evaluate His workings with the natural mind, for they will seem like foolishness; rather, seek to understand spiritual workings by revelation of the Spirit. The Lord works within to perfect or mature the inner man so that he may be prepared to walk and talk with His Lord in the realms He has prepared (**Lk. 20:35**).

Do not think that the work of the Lord in providing for your redemption and initial salvation from sin, is all that is required. This is only a beginning. After the initial salvation has been received, there is the work which He must do *within* to develop a fit vessel to receive all that He has prepared. This does not mean that those who fail to let the Lord do a complete work in preparing them for the greater glory shall lose their

begin to do a quick work within, as your pliable will and mind are yielded to Him. Then quickly you begin to learn His ways from His Word, and His Spirit is able to begin to impart within you, as you yield to Him, all the fruits and graces necessary for a complete work. As you yield, the Lord is able to mold you as clay in the hands of the potter, and His Spirit hovers over you to continually take away that which is not harmonious to the Lord, and places within that which will enable you to be matured in His image. The Lord's workings are by His Spirit, but first He must have a vessel completely yielded and pliable in His hands. He is then able to bring your thoughts, desires, attitudes, and innermost being into that which magnifies the Lord (extends and makes larger His image) and manifests His perfect will for you.

When you come to this place of complete yielding, you will be amazed how quickly the Lord is able to transform your innermost being into the very image and fashion He desires. You will be amazed at how much you desire only the pure things of His Word and His Spirit, and how the things of the world hold very little attraction for you. It is this utter abandonment to the Lord and utter indifference to worldly cares and concerns that enables Him to do a quick work. But, how long it takes to bring you to this place!

This is the reason why most Christians make such little progress through so many years. They are unwilling to see the delusions and utter illusion of the things of the world. Having many idols in their hearts and many things which consume their time and attention, it is impossible for the Holy Spirit to do the work in them that is purposed. Therefore, the Lord must continue to give them their heart's desires until they realize the utter folly of their ways, until they begin to get their spiritual eyes open to the glory and reality of the Lord and His great love and His great plan for them. Then, and only then, can He begin to work by His Spirit to transform their inner being into the beauty of His holiness.

Why must the Lord bring you to utter disillusionment with the things of the world? Why must he bring you through one hardship after another so that you might get your eyes on the right things? Why must He spend so much time bringing you to a place of utter consecration to Him so that His work may be done in you? Until you are willing to abandon the idols that hold you and count as nothing the things of this world, the Lord will not be able to do what He purposes, and work within you all that is necessary for the full entering into His heavenly glory.

He calls you to hear Him! Abandon your folly-in-evil (harmful ideas, desires, things) which blinds your eyes to the beauty of His holiness and to the glory which is being prepared for you. Hear the admonition and let the Lord prepare you so that you may be received by Him in that day.

Jesus is calling to Himself a people who will sit at His feet and hear His words, who will be instructed in the truths of His Kingdom and His righteousness. He taught the multitudes with His Sermon on the Mount (with its backdrop of Old Testament principles) and took His Disciples aside for further instruction in what the multitudes were not ready to hear. That which is revealed in the Sermon on the Mount is what the Lord requires of those who would enter His heavenly Kingdom. Yet, even portions of that have been twisted and distorted by the religious "experts." Was it not said, "You shall be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" (*Matt. 5:48*)? Will He not do a perfecting work (perfecting means completing) in all who are to be received by Him in His own realm (*Phil. 1:6*)? Except your righteousness exceeds that of the nominal Christian of

36, *Jn. 5:28-29*). They are those Christians whose souls had passed from death to life (*Jn. 5:24*) during their previous years on earth, but had not then progressed to the level of deathless life in the physical bodies. The 60-fold who die are subsequently conditioned and prepared during the stay in Paradise to the level at which they can return in resurrection bodies with deathless life, and then be eager to seek the 100-fold estate. The Lord will remain with us always to teach and train (*Heb. 13:5*). There is preparation and progress in Paradise (*Phil. 1:6*), but without the garment of the physical body it is not as intense or as rapid as on earth and thus requires longer periods of time to reach a higher level.

The 30-fold believers to be resurrected some time after the 1000 years are completed are both those who have turned to Jesus Christ during the Great Tribulation, not having had time to mature, and those who progressed very little since their repentance prior to the Tribulation. Therefore, they return to earth in resurrected physical bodies which are mortal and thus subject to death, until by additional progress they become 60-fold Christians and eventually receive immortality in physical bodies. The resurrection of 30-fold and 60-fold very likely will not take place all at once, but gradually and covering a long period of time so as to leave plenty of room for longer stays in Paradise for those not as ready as others for the restoration of the physical body on earth.

There is a difference of destiny between the 30-fold and 60-fold. The 30-fold have secured the promise of future possession of eternal life for their souls, but the possession is not then an accomplished fact. They have accepted Christ mentally, received a protection from death due to sin through His blood, and have come under the provisional shelter of that blood, but they have not been "born anew" with the incorruptible seed of Christ (*I Pet. 1:23, Jms. 1:21*), as have the 60-fold. In time, they must also fully yield in faith and repentance, and come into union with Christ (*Rom. 6:23*).

The sequence in full salvation (preserving) following the healing of the alienation from God (*Matt. 3:2-3*), is that of soul and then physical body (*I Thess. 5:23*). The 60-fold souls have passed from death to life; they have the possession of everlasting soul-life and thus do not come into judgment on the question of life and death (*Jn. 5:24*). Since the 30-fold have not been regenerated anew through the very Divine life (seed) of Christ, they are not yet in secure possession of that continuing soul-life. Being under His sheltering blood, they are safe as long as they continue on and don't turn back. The 30-fold are commanded not to go out at the door of that house of His sheltering blood under the pain of death (*Ex. 12:22-23*). Jesus promised not to cast out any who continue to come toward Him (*Jn. 6:37* – the meaning is "toward" not "to" Him), but going toward Him does not of itself mean arriving at Him where they are "born" into Him and He into them. The difference between 30-fold and 60-fold is that of mental (head) acceptance and heart acceptance (*Rom. 10:8-9*).

Since the 30-fold are only under a shelter, they can at any time go back into the world and lose the protecting shelter, again coming under the full sentence of death. Those who are 60-fold and beyond have received eternal soul-life; they are sons born into the family (generated anew) and are subject to the discipline and correction of the Father who knows how to deal with and apply the pressure to each one to keep him in the paths of righteousness (*Heb. 12:5-11*). Because they are born of His seed, and have arrived at Him to be "born" into Him and He into them, they do not continue in sin (*I Jn. 3:9*). They may temporarily commit acts of sin (*I Jn. 2:1-5*), but, because of the

Because of an extensive history of rebellion, God cast out and down to earth the lot of spirit children who became the Adam race. They were first to come under the laws of cause and effect in close-coupled sequence and later come under the laws of the nations. Then, to set the perfect pattern and to prepare for the succeeding dispensation, the Law of Moses was given on the Mount. There we see the application of the name Saul; through rebellion they had asked for it, the Law. The Law was for their protection, but, of itself, could not make any one perfect. An evil spirit came upon Saul, leading him into fits of temper and wrong conduct. Similarly an evil "spirit" took occasion in the Law to lead the people into ways which grieved the Lord. They appropriated its letter and ignored its spirit of intent, refusing to learn the reason for the regulation. So He took it away in His wrath. Saul and his sons were slain at Gilboa, which means bubbling fountain. It was an illustration of the era of the Law ending at the opening of the bubbling fountain on Calvary, when the heartbeats of the Son of God literally bubbled forth from the Fountain of Life.

The Kingdom of David was a type of the Era of Grace, the era in which we now live. David means "beloved." Of the initiator of this Era of Grace we read, "***This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased***" (*Matt. 3:17*). As David was anointed long before the death of Saul, so also was the Beloved One anointed before the Law actually terminated. Even the Church which formed in Jerusalem and functioned under several of the Apostles was a hybrid product of Law and Grace. Even they could not make a sharp break. Grace did not come into its own for a long time after. This Era extends to the conclusion of the age in which we now live, terminating with the close of the Great Tribulation.

Toward the end of David's reign, there was treachery from within his own house. Attempts were made to seize the throne by force of arms. The pattern is true, and so in the last days of our age we shall surely see an abortive attempt to unseat Christian leadership by those who are treacherous toward the Beloved. Bible prophecy has shown that this treachery by the United Nations Organization, or something akin to it, will be near the time at which the Bride of Christ is taken out of this world. David was fleeing from Jerusalem and came to Mahanaim, which means two camps (*II Sam. 17:24*). But on his way, he sent the priests bearing the Ark back to Jerusalem (*II Sam. 15:25*). In this is illustrated the prophetic division which is to take place in the Church (Jerusalem), followed by the secret messenger-service of the glorified Bride company (priests) to return the Truth (the Ark) to those remaining. It will be through the power of this secret messenger service that the Christian nations will come to recognize the mess into which they have let themselves be led, so they can get out before the trap completely destroys them. Then the stranglehold of the pit upon the nations will be broken, and the satanic bluff and misappropriation of power will be ended. The Era of Grace will quickly come to an end and "Solomon," the Era of Peace, will soon be crowned.

The Millennium is the 1000 years during which Satan is to be shut up in the pit and during which the saints of Christ reign in peace. This is the fulfillment of the "year of Jubilee," the completion of the 7 x 7 years and the beginning of the 50th year. The Jubilee year was celebrated by the return of all forfeited properties to the original owners. This was a prophetic type of the resurrection – a soon event now. The properties forfeited through debt were a type of the physical bodies which the indwelling spirits lost through death. The Mosaic Law thus pictured a full legal restoration of these forfeited bodies to the original owners. The celebration of liberty prefigured the coming

700 years of age and other thousands 100 years old to several hundred, all in dynamic health and strength as "sons of God."

Then the period of the concubines begins. These are not true wives, but are females taken in for entertainment, convenience and carnal pleasure. They are not chosen by a decree of God. They are therefore no good. They are there only to cater to the carnal instincts of man. Peoples from adjacent nations not in the Kingdom will begin to infiltrate and will be tolerated, and liberalism in thought will again come forward. "Surely the abundant fruits of our labors entitle us to some diversion and a deeper enjoyment of life." And the concubines come and come, to be added to the harem. The numbers increase. Solomon has grown soft and fat and indulgent. Near the close of the first 700 years, the Shekinah glory of the Christ shall commence to withdraw into the upper stratosphere, and the vigilance of the glorified saints over the earthly Kingdom will diminish. The vigilance does not actually relax, but the 700 year "week" of the glorified saints has been fulfilled and so their time and attention is turned to the spiritual counterpart Kingdom in the heavenlies.

The young and attractive concubines press themselves against Solomon and cajole him away from being so strict and such a kill-joy. "God has blessed us and He knows we are now able to take care of ourselves. He wants us to enjoy life." This is their effective theme. The true wives are "old-fashioned." Besides, they have lost much of their charm with the years. But the young concubines have youth and freshness and vigor. They are so attractive! And liberalism in thought begins to flourish again, and the "altars to pagan gods" once more abound. The communications media again blare out their messages and entertainment calculated to appeal to the carnal nature.

As the year 3000 A.D. approaches, the glory of the Millennium's first 700 years is still evident, but fading. The glory is being killed by the poison from the concubines' breath and by the antiseptics they use. The true saints on earth are labeled as fanatics. They become centered in Jerusalem, which is by then a fantastically great metropolis. They have heard the call, "Come out of Babylon and be clean, you who bear the vessels of the Lord." Conversely, those infected by the concubines will have been staging an exodus from Jerusalem. The glory of the saints will weigh too heavily upon them and their extreme righteousness will have become too oppressive. Solomon, the era of the Millennium, is aging. His fling with the concubines has run its course. Idolatry of the preceding era has been reintroduced and gross sin is once more rampant in the more remote areas. Then Solomon dies. The Sabbath closes.

During the era of the 700 wives, all of Christendom will have voluntarily become subject to the decrees-in-righteousness issuing from Jerusalem. Also many of the other, non-Christian nations will have permitted themselves to be ruled by heads sympathetic to David, the King in Jerusalem. Still others will have taken on coalition governments which incorporate a faction from the old school of thought, scientific materialism. It is of such nations (Russia and China) in the time of the 700 wives we read, that the Lord will rebuke strong nations afar off (*Mic. 4:1-4*). The foundation for a truly utopian world society will have been laid; however, as always, man sells out his birthright for a mess of pottage. The concubines win. They are embraced to the last one, and their gods are worshipped. Solomon dies and the Shekinah Glory of the Lord is by then completely withdrawn from over Jerusalem. Once more Lucifer is released from the pit to go out with renewed strength to deceive the nations and build up his own kingdom.

death *before* translation into the heavenlies. Children are to be born then as they are now, as mortals; but, with careful training and instruction into life, they shall never grow old. They shall grow into maturity and then enter a full sonship to God, before the age of 50. From there, they will continue to live unchanged for thousands of years, until an absolute mastery has been achieved over every potential within, as well as over all of that which is about them (*Gen. 1:27-28*). That which many would term fanaticism today will be commonplace in the next work week. Immortality in earthly flesh will then be coveted precisely as many today seek salvation, so we can begin to understand why it is that there will be the spirit to fanatically live such a holy Life. Grace will be a thing of the past. In its place will be understanding and responsibility for living in that understanding. The Law will be fully operative. With the Law broken as much as once, death will be the consequence.

Therefore many will fear, lest laxity in the standard of conduct might tempt one aspiring to immortality to deviate one iota from the Law into Life. "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke. My father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions – the sting of death" (*I Ki. 12:12-14*). Here is pictured the strictness of the code of conduct to be lived by those adhering to the Jerusalem "camp of the saints," the camp of the truly separated ones. The very keynote of their laws will be "friendship of the world is enmity with God" (*Jms. 4:4*). The chastising lashes then will not be another Great Tribulation such as the world will never see again, but physical death in an environment of no necessity to die.

The breaking away into liberalism must be understood in a comparative sense. There will be younger spirits who will be led by liberalism into license. And there will be the even younger ones who will step up license into outright sin and evil. Toward the close of the Millennium, nations not wishing to become a part of the Kingdom confederacy shall begin to be turned away from the ways of the Lord more and more. In spite of the glory and greatness seen in the Kingdom realm, they will want to assert their independence and develop their own ways. Liberal trends of thinking will become popular; many will begin to study and think on things that once were before the Millennium. They will be deceived into thinking they can build a civilization even greater than that of the Kingdom realm. They will begin to be puffed up with pride, desiring to make their own way and build their own society. And they will begin to lust for things that have been largely done away with during the righteous Millennial rule.

In Russia, one could expect to see a gradual resurgence of the socialist communist spirit. The materialistic sciences will make tremendous advances during the Millennial era. The normal span of human life will be considerably extended and this span will be improved further by the adopting of selected portions from the Law of life-into-immortality. Thus the materialistically oriented sciences in some lands, headed by Russia, will be able to offer its people a much higher level of health and strength and also a normal life expectancy of 120 years. Some will attain to much more. Their propaganda will be "all this plus the fullest enjoyment now of all that life and earth can offer, without the slightest subservience to the Jerusalem maniacs who could not keep their proximity to the New Jerusalem above and their God" – for the New Jerusalem will have been withdrawn with the increase in man's drawing away from rigid righteousness. Again the way will be paved for the world society to split into two distinct factions, one led by the sons of God and the other by the leaders of the materialistically oriented sciences, centered in Russia and directed by the revitalized spirit of world socialism (commu-

perceive when their hearts are ready to receive further light and revelation, but any man can accelerate or delay that day.

The Millennium of peace now about to break upon the inhabitants of the earth is a Sabbath of rest after 6000 years of labor. The start of the Millennium completes the cycle of redemption in which a minimum number of God's children will have come into the full regeneration which He has purposed. The six 1000 year "days" will have been finished, their fruit ripened and the harvest taken in. The Sabbath of rest follows the work week, both as rest from that work phase and also as preparation for the next phase of work in the succeeding work week. The Lord conforms all things to His patterns. On the 8th day after birth, all male children were to be circumcised (*Lev. 12:3*). In the overall prophetic picture, circumcision is a symbol of a second generation or regeneration of the inner man. It is a symbol of righteousness and of the complete severing of the flesh or desire nature (*Rom. 4:11, Col. 2:11-12*). It pictures a new phase of life fully launched into a higher realm. The number eight is that of the new cycle.

The culmination of the work of the cycle of the ages now close to being terminated has been the regeneration for and the entrance into the Kingdom or rule of Jesus Christ on earth. Through the vicarious sacrifice of everything that even He could give, many have entered into an immortality for their soul garments through having received a glorified and immortal seed from the body of Jesus Christ. That initial salvation has been the Good News, the Gospel of the final age of the past series.

During the next cycle series, the Good News will be that of age-lasting well-being for the physical body as well (*Rev. 14:6* – Literal). The will of the Father on earth is to reflect the same as His purpose being fulfilled in the heavenlies (*Matt. 6:10*). In order for the earth Kingdom to be able to operate with the graduation of its subjects from mortality to immortality in earthly bodies, the same must have taken place in the heavenly Kingdom. In order for the Kingdom of immortality on earth to be fully implemented, the Kingdom of glorified immortality must have been initiated in the New Jerusalem above. The Millennium is devoted to the preparation for that full implementation, and the work of initial salvation is then to have become a thing of the past – at least as a primary focus.

Do you see the importance of going far beyond the principles of "being saved," as Christendom handles them? Some of us should prepare ourselves, in order that the Lord will have someone to call who is in position to help many others engage in the work of the Millennium – which, in turn, is preparation for the following 6000 years of work. Another factor which the Lord has had to consider is His finite supply of glorified Life seed. When that is all used (the supply was to serve our age), another source must have come into being (Your sons shall marry you – *Isa. 62:5*).

During the Millennium, the Kingdom of God in the heavenlies will be in operation, with the 144,000 group and the Harvest group as the subjects. They will be in reigning and ruling positions with Christ, with respect to the developing earth Kingdom under the raised up David. It will take 1000 years for those reigning and ruling with Christ to so counsel, instruct and watch over the inhabitants of the earth that a minimum number of God's children will reach a place where they can be fully liberated into the station of sons of God in earthly immortality.

Those who are liberated from the limitations of the earth planet at the conclusion of

the atmosphere will then itself be that *uncalculated* bomb and in its fervent heat the oceans will disappear and all life, as we know it, over all the earth will cease to exist – will be totally extinct. The earth planet will continue to be peopled by humanity, but that humanity will be deathless beings who do not require and are not dependent upon either air or water.

Again it will be the Lord's fiery destruction from on high, but it will be put into operation by the hand of rebellious man. It was God Who has designed the awesome power into the atom, but it is man who releases it in devastation – God's power misapplied. The atmosphere will become a thundering sheet of flame and the earth will receive a baptism of fire in which the very elements melt with fervent heat (**II Pet. 3:12**). The inhabitants of the Kingdom realm will be instantly changed as their bodies put on the glory of the Heavenly realm. Others, not then ready to be changed shall be instantly destroyed physically. Also, all the inhabitants of the nations which had conceived the rebellion shall be instantly consumed.

These things shall be after the next cycle of ages (minimum) beyond the Millennial rest now at hand. Therefore, behold the glory of your God and His unfolding purpose, and prepare your heart to receive His goodness in *this* hour. These future events are disclosed in measure to us now so we can behold something more of His glory, and be constructively impressed. Our Lord is beginning to give His people a glance of His vast plan, which covers ages and ages, because they have been so limited in their understanding and have been so woefully ignorant of the purpose to be accomplished on earth in the ages to come. Therefore, the beginning of a larger view of that which is yet future is being opened so that the Lord's people may come and wonder at what He has planned and love Him (cooperate with Him), because of the greatness and goodness of His purpose.

: 10 When the baptism of fire envelops the earth, Satan is hurled into the "Lake of Fire," where the beast person who let Satan take over the rule of his soul and body and the false prophet already are. **Revelation 19:20** contains the earlier mention of those who are placed in the Lake of fire and brimstone processing. The "fire" pictures a consuming of all that is unusable in God's plan. Brimstone burns at a low temperature and slowly. Further, in past times, sulphur or brimstone had been utilized medically as a purifier, especially for skin diseases such as leprosy. Since leprosy was the only disease under the Law which permanently excluded both men and women from the camp of God's people, it can be seen as symbolizing sin.

The continual "torment" is solely connected with and therefore symbolic of a test of applied pressure to determine what is true, such as in the use of a touchstone for testing the purity of gold or silver. The torment is not what we would imagine from searing flames, but a blow-by-blow replay of past accomplishments and errors, with the knowledge of what might have been, if the errors had been offset through repentance. This disciplining continues not forever, but for ages and ages, several thousand years for some, until all contaminated soul structure is shed and only a naked spirit remains.

: 11-12 The Heavenly Father is a loving Father, and has repeatedly stated He is Almighty and unwilling to lose any of His children. Those statements cannot be distorted without changing His words; and yet the Church fathers did and still do change the presentation of the Good News of Jesus Christ into the news of another spirit. The loving Father is unwilling to lose any of those whom He has brought into being; and He

sends a spirit of delusion upon him (*II Thess. 2:10-11*), the man may turn again to the Lord in repentance and continue in the agreement and the promise.

Man is purchased or redeemed by the blood of Christ applied in faith (*I Pet. 1:18-23, Ex. 12:13*), but it is the continuing reception of the Word which implants and roots Him in man (*Jms. 1:21*). It is the seed of immortality that is implanted and rooted and is to grow to the preserving of both the soul and the body (*I Pet. 1:23-25*). However, Jesus denies those who persist in not following Him (*Matt. 10:33, Lk. 12:9, II Pet. 2:1*). God has records of the name (character, nature) of each man individually, and his name being maintained in the Book of Life assures continuance of life with Christ. Separation from God during ages, but in conscious knowledge of what might have been (mental anguish), comes out of having a more than adequate chance to know God experientially and then persistently refusing to walk in His ways, exhausting the opportunities for repentance and turning back. Peter denied the Lord three times, but immediately repented and was forgiven. If he had persisted, he would not have been forgiven. The unsaved dead are judged by their whole way of feeling and acting, by their aims and endeavors, in short, by what they have done with Jesus Christ during the allotted time.

When the unsaved are resurrected in the period concluding the earth Kingdom series of ages, they are not resurrected into an opportunity for repentance and turning to God. The objective is not that of turning them to salvation, but for judgment. The baptism (overwhelming) with fire which envelops the earth brings the final judgment of the ages on Satan, on his spirit hosts and on all men who have permitted themselves to be deceived into persistent rebellion against God. All such who have previously lived on earth and willfully persisted in paths of error are destined to be resurrected and live again before the cataclysmic detonation of *Revelation 20:9*. They will have come again in physical bodies with their soul bodies re-formed in the same patterns of rebellion as maintained before. Therefore, again they will live in rebellious life on earth, for they will have long since exhausted their opportunities for repentance (*Lk. 12:58-59*).

Because of the intensity of the rebellion, the Gog-led hordes will conceive a plan to march on the "camp of the Holy Ones" and take over the rule of the earth for themselves. Their rebellion against God is again reestablished. They will develop and perfect a phase 3 nuclear bomb and will use it to disintegrate Jerusalem and the "yoke" placed upon them by the Holy Ones. The earth's atmosphere is triggered to ignite and blazes up to heat the earth's elements to incandescence. Then the Jerusalem which men have known is gone forever. Also gone is the "Kremlin" of that day and all the Gog-led hosts. There is no more sea, and the world, as we know it, is no more.

In that day, multitudes will have been living in ocean depths, but the "sea" also symbolizes the rebellious nations in confusion, whose peoples have not the life of Christ in them. When the earth lights up with incandescent heat, those in the sea, as well as all unsaved on the earth's surface, will find themselves in the Lake of Fire. In it the physical body is fully destroyed instantaneously, and beyond that there is no possibility of resurrection – even with the power of God. Then the utter disintegration of the soul body begins. Earthly fire does not affect the soul structure. But in the unseen world (Hades), the process of the Lake of Fire is also activated for a two-fold purpose. When their souls were previously lost in Hades, it was a natural consequence of broken law – even as death eventually results for the physical body. But in the Lake of Fire, God sears home the lesson for keeps. The slow disintegrating process begins again, but it is

from whence it came (*Eccles. 12:7*), for His disposition, and is then confined for a time (*I Pet. 3:19*). But, some years prior to the *Revelation 20:9* baptism of fire on earth, all the unsaved dead from ages past are resurrected in physical bodies and souls.

In the judgment of the baptism of fire on earth, they instantaneously lose their physical bodies in a second death, and their spirits with soul-bodies enter Hades by the route of death. Judgment follows them into Hades and immediately the Lake of Fire activates the second death for their soul bodies. Thus the words of Jesus Christ are to be fulfilled, that both body and soul would be utterly destroyed in Gehenna, the Lake of Fire (*Matt. 10:28, 25:41*). Although their physical bodies are destroyed in an instant, their soul-bodies gradually disintegrate over a long period of time as symbolized by the disease of leprosy in the Bible. There is not only the remorse of the mind in grief, but also the pain (not intense) of the "flame" which is experienced as the soul-bodies slowly die.

Eventually the naked spirits (which never die), having lost both soul-garment and physical body-garment, find no place to rest and no purpose. They are without bodies or vehicles in which to function. Scripture does not indicate what the spirits then do after returning to the Father, yet their conscious existence continues, even though losing all. Since "Gehenna" destroys in a final death both body and soul, then death ceases to be (*Rev. 21:4*). And Hades, having no occupants, also ceases to be (*Rev. 20:14*).